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INSIDE

NATION



President Obama wins support from House Speaker Boehner for a strike against Syria. **► PAGE 16**

LIFE & STYLE



The Winged Victory of Samothrace is up for a meticulous cleaning. **► PAGE 21**

'Products for Tinian, Rota twice assessed wharfage fee' PAGE 3
CNMI public education marks 25th year next month. PAGE 6

'Article 12 holds back CNMI's long-term economic growth'



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Guam Chamber of Commerce board chair Gerald S.A. Perez addresses the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership yesterday at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While investors in Guam and other areas eye expanding their operations in the CNMI now that the local economy is recovering, the one thing that holds them back is Article 12 or the NMI Constitution's provision restricting landowner-

See ARTICLE 12 on Page 4

CNMI now braces for 50-cent minimum wage hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Next week's congressional debate about the U.S. military's action in Syria further weakens the chance of passing a bill delaying the CNMI's 50-cent minimum wage increase this year, with only nine available legislative days before the end of fiscal year 2013.

» **Syria debate weakens chance of passing CNMI wage 'delay' bill**

If the U.S. House of Representatives is unable to pass S. 256 in those nine legislative days, the CNMI's minimum wage will automatically increase from the current \$5.55

an hour to \$6.05 an hour on Sept. 30.

A 2007 U.S. law requires an annual 50-cent minimum wage hike in the CNMI until it reaches the federal wage

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GOP, Covenant, independents 'reunification' eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) laid out yesterday his major priorities: working with the Inos administration to address pressing issues

» **Senate president is acting governor today**

facing the CNMI such as prolonging the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan, along with "reunifying" the Republican Party, whose

previous members include Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Covenant Party and many others now calling themselves either as independents

or Independent-Republicans.

Torres, the CNMI acting governor starting today, is inviting Inos to "come back to the Republican Party."

Inos earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that Torres is among those he is considering as his running mate—or his lieutenant governor candidate—in

See GOP on Page 4

JOINT BUDGET PANEL

Members of the House and Senate conference committee on the fiscal year 2014 budget bill, along with Legislative Bureau staffers, take a short break from hashing out the differences in the two houses' versions of the \$123.4-million budget measure yesterday afternoon in the Senate president's conference room on Capital Hill. The six-member committee is led by Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See related story on Page 4



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Local

Mayor's Office catches 10 dogs a day

The Saipan's Mayors Office catches an average of 10 dogs a day through its Dog Control Program, which only shows that the island's stray animal problem is far from over.

The *Saipan Tribune* interviewed Dog Control Program staff Vincent Deleon Guerrero and Isaiah Lizama last week and the two confirmed that there are still a lot of stray dogs out there.

Deleon Guerrero said the most "infested" part of Saipan is Chalan Kanoa, especially the beach near Sugar Dock, where owners abandon their dogs.

Even during slow days, Lizama said they still catch two to three stray dogs a day.

Henry Hofschneider, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores' adviser, said stray dogs continue to be a problem on the island and he encourages residents to call the program's hotline at 888-3241 if they see any stray dogs in their area.

Deleon Guerrero and Guerrero are also asking community members to stop playing with the traps they set for these animals.

More often than not, they said, when they return a couple of hours after setting up a trap, they would find it already sprung, or worse, vandalized by people who just "have nothing else to do."

The Dog Control Program makes rounds of villages daily to catch stray dogs. Recently,

Deleon Guerrero and Lizama said they've also started making rounds in the evenings because that's the time when dogs are really active, scavenging for food.

The two reminded dog owners that the program does not discriminate between dogs with tags or no tags. As long as they find these dogs unleashed, they

will immediately catch them and bring them to the dog pound.

The kennel in Lower Base, Hofschneider said, can accommodate as much as 50 animals.

Of the 50 or animals they catch, Deleon Guerrero and Lizama said that only about 10 to 15 are ultimately claimed. Owners only have five days to claim

their pets. Unclaimed animals are sent to the Paradise Veterinary Clinic to be euthanized.

An animal-lover himself, Deleon Guerrero said he feels sad about the dogs being put down but he would rather have them euthanized than see them suffer without adequate shelter, food, and a responsible owner to care for them.

Those who do claim their dogs pay a penalty for having an unleashed pet. Hofschneider said the first penalty is \$16 but the mayor's office charges higher penalties of \$32 and \$47 for second and third offenses, respectively.

fenses, respectively.

Pet owners also have to pay the Dog Control Program \$5 for each day their dog is at the dog pound.

Based on a survey conducted by the Northern Marianas College-CREES program in 2010, Saipan had an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 stray animals.

The alarming number of strays dogs forced the hand of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to enact Saipan Local Law 9-12, which created the Dog Control Program under the Saipan Mayor's Office in 2011. *(Mark Rabago)*



The Mayor of Saipan's Dog Control Program Shelter in Lower Base.

MARK RABAGO

2nd request to modify bail for ex-Tinian cop denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected yesterday for the second time the request to modify the \$100,000 cash bail imposed on former Tinian detective Melvin Ilo Monkeya, who is facing charges that he sexually abused a then 14-year-old girl inside a police station in 2008.

In rejecting the motion to modify the bail, Camacho noted the seriousness of the charges in that the sexual abuse allegedly happened inside a police station.

The judge did not touch the issue whether Monkeya's mother is suitable to serve as the defendant's third-party custodian.

Assistant public defender Benjamin K. Petersburg, counsel for the 42-year-old Monkeya, asked the court to modify the current bail of \$100,000 cash by allowing the defendant to post a property bond.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister opposed, saying the defendant poses a seri-

ous threat to the safety of the community and that the evidence against him is substantial.

McAllister said that Monkeya admittedly engaged in non-consensual sex with a minor girl at the Tinian police station in November 2008.

McAllister said the defendant is also accused of soliciting and attempting to coerce the victim into having sex with him again in 2011.

In 2013, Monkeya allegedly confessed the crime to several family members, boasting that he is untouchable as he is a police officer.

After the hearing on the motion, Petersburg withdrew as counsel for the defendant due to conflict of interests.

Petersburg disclosed that the Office of the Attorney General has named Monkeya as a government witness against another client of the Public Defender's Office.

Camacho granted Petersburg's motion and appointed attorney S. Joshua Berger as Monkeya's new counsel.

King intends to call 95 witnesses for Crisostomo's defense

» **OAG plans to call 8 witnesses**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney Janet H. King notified the Superior Court yesterday that she intends to call 95 witnesses for the defense of Joseph A. Crisostomo, the suspect in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

The Office of the Attorney meanwhile, told the court that the prosecution plans to call

at least eight witnesses.

As this developed, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho placed under advisement Crisostomo's nine pre-trial motions and the government's three pre-trial motions.

The judge held the hearing on the motions the entire day yesterday. King argued for Crisostomo, while chief prosecutor Shelli Neal and assistant attor-

RELATED NEWS

► **Introduction of evidence linking Crisostomo to 2006 murder opposed. PAGE 7**

ney general Brian Flaherty argued for the government.

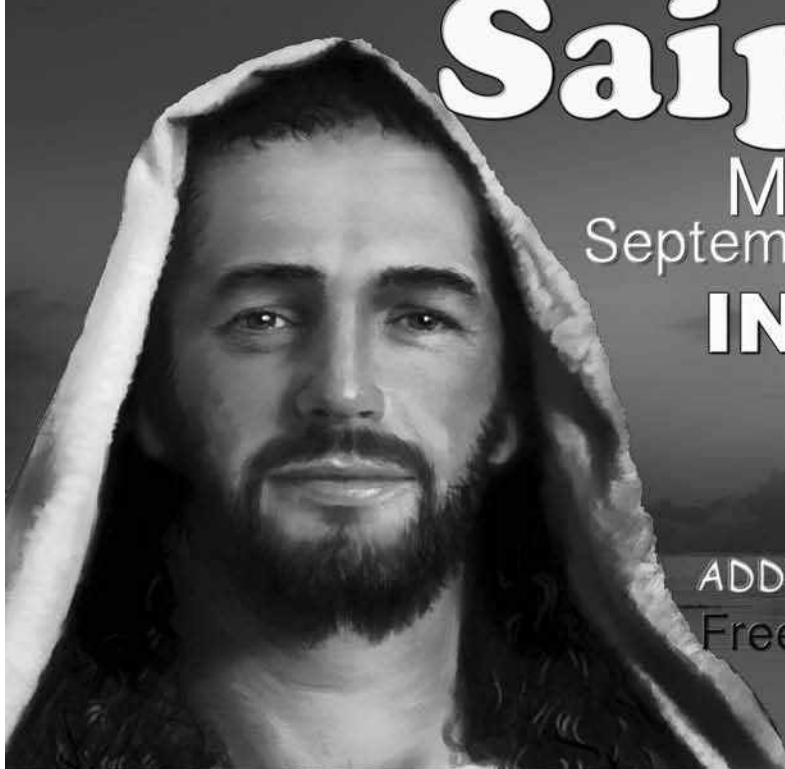
On the defense's witness list are former Department of Public Safety commissioner Ranine Mafnas, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents Joseph Auther and Haejun Park, several police officers, two Romero siblings, and Crisostomo's former wife.

At the hearing yesterday, King said the ex-wife was the

one who identified the voice in Romero's 911 call as Crisostomo's. King said the ex-wife has been constantly asking authorities for the \$22,500 reward for information in Romero's murder.

The trial of 40-year-old Crisostomo will start on Oct. 15, 2013.

FBI agents Auther and Park found Romero's body at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012, two days before she was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan.



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'Products for Tinian, Rota twice assessed wharfage fee'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Many cargoes being shipped to Rota and Tinian are twice assessed wharfage fees, a factor that discourages businesses on the two islands. They say the "double charges" being enforced by the Commonwealth Ports Authority worsen the economic difficulty on the two islands, which are totally dependent on shipped cargo from Saipan for their supplies.

CPA board member Barrie Toves, who represents Rota on the board, disclosed this to his colleagues last week, urging the board to revisit the wharfage policy and either waive or reduce the fees for the two islands.

Based on the existing policy, Toves said, a company like Joeten, which gets its commodities from the West Coast, is assessed a wharfage fee once its container lands on Saipan. But in bringing this similar commodity to Rota where Joeten has an Ace Hardware branch, the same container is assessed a separate wharfage fee as it enters the Rota seaport.

"In essence, CPA is charging the same container twice. We have to look at this issue because that's double charging the consumers," said Toves.

As much as many businesses want to boost the economic activity on the two islands, he said the high shipping cost has been a major issue.

CPA executive director

MaryAnn Lizama said their current wharfage is \$11.40 per revenue ton. That has been the rate since 2009.

"The last time we had our rate study, the recommendation to increase the then rate of \$6.75 per revenue ton to the present \$11.40 per revenue ton was implemented in 2009. There was a recommendation that the wharfage fees should be increased based on the Consumer Price Index, which is at 3.9 percent per year but we didn't opt for that recommendation," said Lizama.

Saipan Tribune learned that for petroleum, oil, and lubricants, CPA assesses a wharfage fee of \$8.55 per revenue ton.

Toves believes the ports authority has something to learn from the Customs Division in how it assesses fees.

"Take this as an example: When commodities from outside CNMI come in, Customs assesses taxes at ports of entry. So when a container comes in, taxes are already assessed but that same container, when it brings the same commodities to its suppliers on Rota and Tinian, Customs doesn't assess any more fees. So I see disparity [between CPA and Customs practice]," said Toves.

He said both the Tinian and Rota legislative delegations are very concerned about this matter.

Toves is convinced that the "double charges" imposed on these commodities are passed

on to the residents of the two islands. Prices of commodities on Rota are far higher than Saipan and Tinian, due to the high cost of bringing them to the island.

According to seaports facilities chair Benigno Sablan, waiving the wharfage fee for interisland shipping is "practically not possible," citing the impact it would have on the seaport bond indenture ratio.

In the 10-month period of fiscal year 2013, CPA seaports have been in compliance with the bond ratio with 1.36 percent—surpassing the required bond ratio for seaport of 1.25 percentage, according to finance committee chair Frances Mafnas.

Sablan disclosed that the wharfage fee collection on

Rota in fiscal year 2012 totaled \$83,000. On Tinian, the collection each fiscal year is over \$50,000. CPA will incur a tremendous loss if it waives these fees for the two islands, he said.

"We really cannot do that because of our bond ratio. If we do it, we will be hearing from our bond trustee. ... If we lose a certain percentage in bond ratio it would be more of a problem for us," said Sablan.

Board members Mafnas and Thomas Kiyu Villagomez both recommended that the wharfage policy be revisited and recommended the establishment of a "one-time fee" for any cargo coming in to the CNMI.

Sablan tasked CPA comptroller Skye Aldan on Friday to

come up with a projected cost analysis if the current wharfage fee is reduced by 50 percent and what impact it will have on the bond ratio.

When asked about the mat-

ter yesterday, CPA executive director Lizama said: "We are currently still looking at the impact if and when the board makes changes to the current fee schedule."

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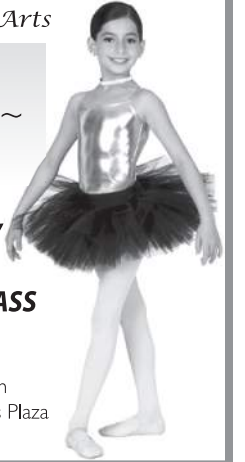
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Rotary eyes setting up Interact clubs in schools

The Rotary Club of Saipan is looking to form Interact Club organizations in junior high and high schools in the CNMI.

With September being Interact Club Month, Rotary Club president Laila Y. Boyer said there should be a renewed impetus in creating Interact clubs in as many campuses in the Commonwealth as possible.

Speaking at the Rotary Club's weekly meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Boyer said a recent study showed that a college education is becoming more and more important for those seeking to enter the workforce.

"Aside from high grades, one sure-fire way of entering college is through community volunteering and that is why Rotary Club of Saipan is celebrating Interact Club this month and is inviting all junior high and high school, public and private, to start an Interact Club."

Rotary Club vice president Richard Cody suggested forming an Interact Club

either at the Kagman High School or Chacha Junior High School—or both—with the Kagman Children's Park just within the two schools' vicinity.

Interact Club is a group for young people ages 12-18 who want to join together to tackle community issues that they care about. Every Interact Club is expected to carry out two service projects a year—one that helps the school or community and one that promotes international understanding.

To form an Interact Club, members should first find a sponsor Rotary Club to provide support and partnership and an adviser from the sponsor club.

A faculty adviser—if it's a school-based club—to serve as a liaison between the sponsor Rotary Club and the school administration is also a requirement.

An Interact Club also needs strong club leaders to help organize the club, grow its membership, and carry out successful projects. (Mark Rabago)

Joint panel settles on giving Inos 50 'extra' FTEs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A six-member panel hashing out the two chambers' fiscal year budget differences reached a compromise yesterday—that of giving the governor 50 extra full-time

equivalent essential positions compared to the House's earlier proposal of 25 and the Senate's 75.

The "compromise" number of additional FTEs is half of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' request of 100.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-

Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and lead conferee from the House, said last night he is "pleased" with the progress that the conference committee made on their first day of meeting yesterday.

Sablan said they are giving

themselves up to Friday to wrap up the committee work.

"Our target is to have a conference committee report by Friday. I am pleased with the progress and I look forward to continuing this progress until we come up with a report," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

There are three members each from the House and Senate; the latter is headed by Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

Sablan hopes that the conference committee will also be able to reach a compromise on other key issues such on the government utility account, a \$2 million in Department of Public Lands budget originally set aside mostly for Rota and Tinian homesteads, and a \$200,000 portion of the Marianas Visitors Authority budget.

If the \$123.4 million budget bill is not passed and signed into law before the start of fiscal year 2014, the CNMI government will have to shut down starting on Oct. 1. The shutdown continues until a new budget is in place.

ARTICLE 12

From Page 1

ship only to people of Northern Marianas descent, visiting Guam Chamber of Commerce board chair Gerald S.A. Perez told Commonwealth businesses yesterday.

Under Article 12, only those with at least 25 percent NMD Chamorro or Carolinian blood can own land.

Perez, who considers himself a longtime friend and avid fan of the CNMI, hopes that his remarks about Article 12 "would be taken in the constructive spirit intended."

He said Article 12 is the "secular drag and anchor holding back any meaningful and long-term economic growth in the CNMI."

Perez was one of the guest speakers at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting yesterday at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

In his presentation, he pointed to the "twin problems that Article 12 pose for serious investors in Guam, or elsewhere for that matter."

These are the lack of freedom in maximizing use of real property, and the inability of financial institutions to be comforted by a security interest on money loaned out to businesses and individuals.

He said fee simple ownership of land is central to investment possibilities.

Fee simple ownership grants an owner total and absolute legal title, and is therefore the highest and strongest form of ownership that exists.

"Free market real estate transactions grant fee simple ownership to protect maximum use of this asset for the owners or investors, and to protect the security interest of mortgage lenders who provide risk capital. Absent these guarantees, economic growth in any jurisdiction is seriously impaired and severely disadvantaged in attracting outside investments," he said.

He added that potential investors and businesses rely on their ability to grow value and worth of their enterprises.

David M. Sablan of the Citizens for Change of Article 12, in an interview, said he's glad that an "outsider looking in" shares the sentiments of many in the local community.

"It's high time the CNMI take a strong position in repealing Article 12... I can see a change in attitude towards Article 12," Sablan told reporters in a brief interview at the Chamber meeting.

Perez reciprocated Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan's presentation before the Guam Chamber of Commerce membership on July 31.

"It is not for me or others outside of the Commonwealth to decide what's best for you and your long-term economic security. And it is not I who must

evaluate the costs and benefits of Article 12... But as the new world order evolves, and as global competition intensifies, the CNMI has to make one of two fundamental choices," Perez told the crowd.

One, "do you keep the past, maintain the status quo and risk getting left behind?"

Two, "do you embrace the risk, take a chance on the abilities of your people, and leap into a future that you can impact to your benefit?"

"The difference between these two choices," Perez said, "is leaving to chance what comes your way, because of your fidelity to an outdated policy; or influencing the outcome of your economic destiny by trusting your entrepreneurial spirit."

Now the question before the CNMI, Perez said, is "which of these two choices will you make?"

'Unintended consequences'

Perez' presentation centered on the "destructive nature of unintended consequences"—and that Guam and the CNMI's story are basically that.

"Frankly, it is a story about many good intentions gone awry. And it is a story that has no shortage of blame to go around, whether local or off islands, and whether by active involvement or complicity," he said.

An example of "unintended consequence" is also Article 12.

Perez believes that the framers of the NMI Constitution wanted this provision as a protection from outside control.

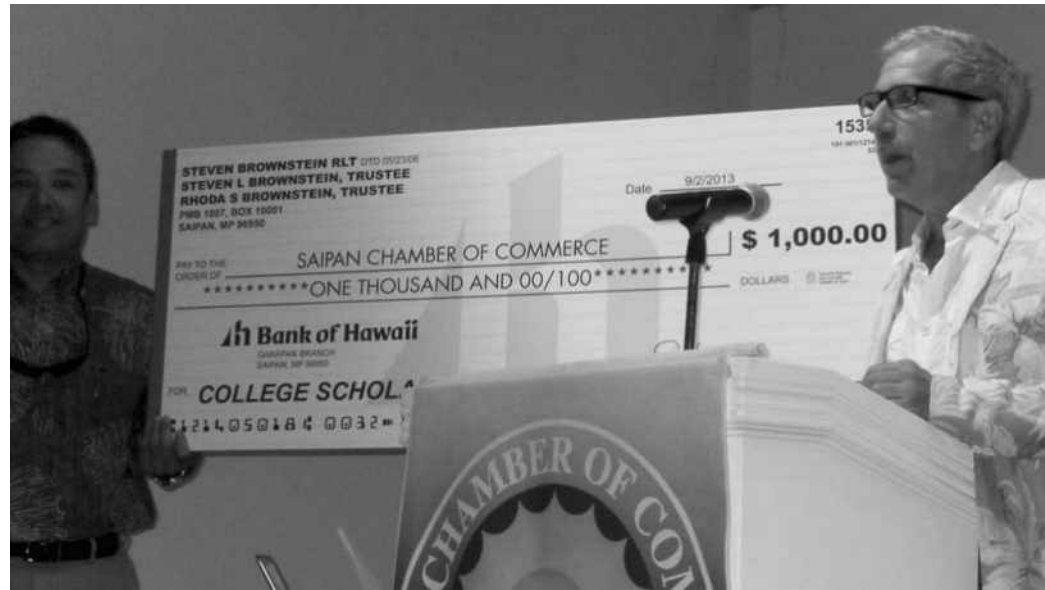
"But the unintended consequence, I will hazard to say, has been less than helpful to the Commonwealth's economic vitality," he said.

Perez said the federal takeover of CNMI labor and immigration, while a well-intentioned policy, cost the CNMI millions in lost tax revenue and weakened the business community's vitality.

He said in Guam years ago, a small band of political activists stormed a military airfield in Guam, and their cause had to do with political status, access to federal property, and cultural sovereignty.

"But the uprooting and relocation of Guamanians to places like Bremerton, San Diego, Vallejo and Honolulu, where their well-paid skills were needed, was the unintended consequence of their agenda. And it came at the expense of Guam losing more than \$100 million in annual payroll and millions more from the forfeited economic activity that would have been generated," he said. He went on to cite a few more examples.

Perez also said that, just like Guam, the CNMI economy is indeed showing signs of recovery. He cited examples to illustrate Guam's "rollercoaster" economy and its similarity to the CNMI in many respects.



PLATINUM SPONSOR

Steven Brownstein, right, addresses the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan yesterday while Chamber president Alex Sablan, left, looks on. Brownstein, a Platinum Sponsor for the 2013 Saipan Chamber of Commerce/Steven Brownstein Golf Classic after donating \$5,000, donated an additional \$1,000 toward the Chamber's College Scholarship Fund yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GOP

From Page 1

the 2014 elections.

Inos is seeking a full-year term. He became governor on Feb. 20 when former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

The Inos 2014 Campaign, when sought for comment yesterday, said that Torres' invitation for the governor to rejoin the Republican Party "is currently a matter under active discussion and at this time, Gov. Inos is still consulting his supporters on this and other matters pertaining to his gubernatorial bid next year."

"The governor anticipates that a decision will be finalized in the coming weeks," said Angel A. Demapan, spokesman for the Inos 2014 Campaign.

Torres said the Republican Party has been fractured so many times throughout the years that it is time to reunite the party for the CNMI's sake.

"Among my priorities is to reunify the Republican Party. Even the governor was a member of the Republican Party, a lot of independents were members of the Republican Party. We would like to reunite the party and make it a stronger party," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Earlier, Torres was one of those potential gubernatorial

candidates.

The 2014 gubernatorial race may now go down to only Inos versus former House speaker Heinz Hofschneider, an independent and a former Republican.

Acting governor

Torres will be the acting governor starting today as Inos attends a two-day regional security roundtable in Guam and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider remains off-island on personal leave.

As of yesterday, there was no telling when Hofschneider will return to the CNMI.

The governor is attending the regional security roundtable hosted by the Guam-U.S.-Asia

Security Alliance, or GUASA, at the Hyatt Regency Guam today and tomorrow.

Press secretary Angel Demapan and the lieutenant governor's counsel, Wes Bogdan, will be accompanying the governor to Guam. In the absence of a Military Integration Management Committee coordinator, Demapan and Bogdan are currently working together on military matters of mutual interest to the governments of the CNMI and Guam.

The GUASA roundtable brings together some of the nation's top intelligence analysts and national security experts in a bid to give clarity to calls for rebalancing U.S. interests in the area.

WAGE

From Page 1

floor of \$7.25 an hour.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the critical debate about the U.S. military's action in Syria has added to the host of issues competing for floor time, along with spending bills such as a continuing resolution to keep the U.S. government open on Oct. 1 and beyond.

"This and then the Syria debate are making it more difficult to bring up S. 256. I was more hopeful yesterday than I am today," Sablan said.

But all is not lost, he said.

"We are still going to try and work hard," the delegate added.

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, separately said yesterday that employers now have to brace for the minimum wage increase.

"It's unfortunate that Con-

gress may not be able to address the CNMI minimum wage increase delay for the CNMI. We thank Congressman Kilili and the rest of those that helped to support the effort. Unfortunately, more pressing issues in the world are taking precedence and so it does not look like we will have a minimum wage stay. So we are asking businesses to brace for that increase. Hopefully, they've already projected for the increase in their own budget," he told *Saipan Tribune* at the Chamber membership meeting yesterday.

Since 2007, the annual 50-cent hike was delayed once, in 2011.

Willy Barbo, a 56-year-old hotel employee, said he is looking forward to a 50-cent increase in his minimum wage salary to keep up with the increased cost of consumer goods and services.

"I would be happier if there's a salary increase than if there's a delay. I have two children

and it's hard to keep up with all expenses with the minimum wage we have. But if the bill is not passed, then we don't have a choice but to wait for another year," Barbo said.

Jim Arenovski, president of Delta Management Corp. that operates Shell gas stations, separately said yesterday that like most businesses in the CNMI, they were hoping for a one-year reprieve in the minimum wage hike.

He said a delay in the wage hike would mean there would be more money for employee training and more opportunity for new or expanded investments, among other things.

Arenovski also said that Delta Management increases the wages not only of its minimum wage earners but the rest of their employees as well for fairness sake, every time there is a scheduled minimum wage hike.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration

will seek information from Delegate Sablan's office regarding the bill delaying the minimum wage increase.

"Nonetheless, the administration is hopeful that Congress will act on the measure," he added.

Before adjourning for the August recess, the U.S. Senate passed S. 256, a bill that would delay the 50-cent increase in the CNMI minimum wage on Sept. 30 this year and in 2015.

The same bill also extends the CW and E2-C investor visa program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, among other things.

If the 2013 minimum wage increase is skipped, it will "allow more time for businesses to adjust, the economy to improve, and the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on the effects of the wage increases," Delegate Sablan said.

The next GAO report is due in April 2014.

Quichocho sues Judge Govendo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and landowner Joaquin Q. Atalig have sued Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo for the latter's comments that resulted in the CNMI Supreme Court publicly censuring and sanctioning him in 2010.

In a taxpayers' complaint filed Tuesday, Quichocho and Atalig asked the Superior Court to require Govendo to return all wages and benefits he received for the acts that resulted in him being sanctioned by the CNMI Supreme Court for violating the

Commonwealth Code of Judicial Conduct and Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure.

Quichocho and Atalig argue that these wages and benefits are "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and/or unjust."

Quichocho represented himself in the lawsuit. Attorney Robert Myers Jr. served as counsel for Atalig.

The plaintiffs are also suing the CNMI government and the Department of Finance for illegal expenditure of public funds and breach of fiduciary duty.

The plaintiffs cited the High Court's findings that Govendo "failed to follow the high stan-

dards of conduct required of a judge necessary to maintain the integrity and independence of the Judiciary" and whose "Castillo statement damaged the public's faith in the Judiciary and failed to promote the public's confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary."

The Castillo statement refers to Govendo's saying "adios muchacho" to Roger Castillo, a Filipino defendant in a domestic violence case. In that case, Govendo also told the defendant, among other things, that he is going to call the Office of the Attorney General so the OAG will file criminal charges

against him and that he is going to make it his "personal journey" to make sure that Castillo leaves the CNMI.

Quichocho and Atalig said the Supreme Court held "that the Castillo statement was a public statement...and that Judge Govendo's threats of prosecution and deportation created the appearance that he would seek to influence a future proceeding."

The plaintiffs also cited the Supreme Court statement that "the statements made in the two adoption cases were racially insensitive and racially stereotyped all Filipinos as wanting to adopt all of their relatives in order to give them a better life

in the Commonwealth."

Quichocho and Atalig said the wages and benefits Govendo received during the time he was sanctioned "do not fit any of the definition of a public purpose," because the Supreme Court found Govendo to have made "a combination of multiple statements with racially prejudicial overtones" and "a pattern of racial insensitivity."

Quichocho and Atalig pointed out that Govendo did not pay back any wages or benefits that he gained during the times he was sanctioned for.

"On information and belief, defendants CNMI and DOF did not collect the ill-gotten gains," the plaintiffs said.

The CNMI Supreme Court publicly censured Govendo in December 2010 and ordered him to complete an educational program on judicial ethics at his own expense, for the comments he made in three different court hearings.

In May 2013, Govendo issued a ruling that found Quichocho to have induced landowner Atalig to violate public policy by filing false documents with the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

When the ruling was issued, Quichocho had just been nominated to become a judge.

In June 2013, Gov. Eloy S. Inos withdrew the administration's nomination of Quichocho to serve as associate judge.

Artists needed for Cultural Heritage Exhibit

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is inviting all interested local artists to take part in the 2013 Cultural Heritage Exhibit set to start on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Arts Council coordinator Darrell Moteisou said the event is being held in conjunction with September being Cultural Heritage Month.

Local artists involved in the visual arts, contemporary arts, carving, and painters are all being invited to sign up and showcase their masterpieces at the exhibit.

Registration is free and participating artists can take home all proceeds from the sale of their artworks.

So far, among the artists who have agreed to take part in the 2013 Cultural Heritage Exhibit are Flowerpart Salas, Melchy Billy, Jill Arenovski, Martin Castro, and Mohana Hopkins.

Moteisou said that Salas makes earrings and weaves accessories out of local material, while Billy makes all sorts of items out of beads. Arenovski is known for her paper designs, Catsro for his intricate shell carvings, and Hopkins for her contemporary bead-making.

The Arts Council has been staging the Cultural Heritage Exhibit for about 10 years. This year marks the second straight year the Kanoa Resort will be hosting the exhibit. The exhibit

will be held at the lobby of the Susupe landmark.

Moteisou is encouraging all local artists to register for the exhibit as it's a great opportunity for them not only to showcase their artistic talents but also to promote and perpetuate local arts and culture.

The Cultural Heritage Exhibit is one of the three major exhibits hosted annually by the Arts Council. The other two are the Women's Exhibit every March and the Christmas Exhibit in December.

For more information, visit the Arts Council next to the post office on Capital Hill, call 322-9982 or 83, or email mteisou@gmail.com or darrellm_21@hotmail.com. **(Mark Rabago)**



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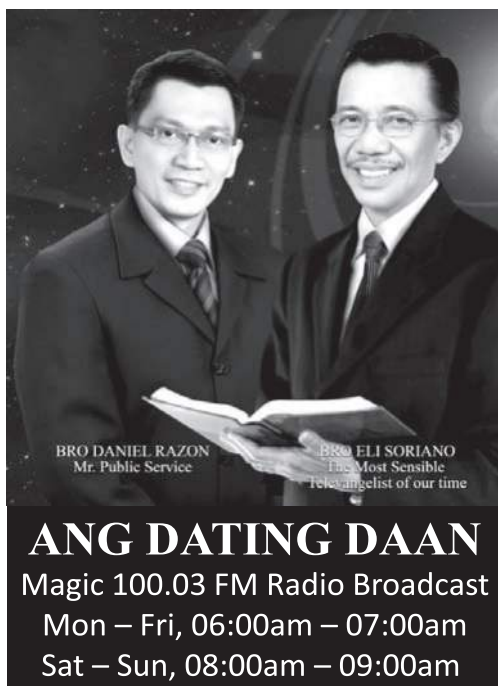
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CNMI public education marks 25th year next month

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public school officials, students, and employees will celebrate the 2013 CNMI Education Month in advance to coincide the occasion with the upcoming silver anniversary of the Commonwealth public education system.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., disclosed that PSS will be holding the Education Month celebration next month instead of doing it traditionally in November, in time for the celebration of PSS' 25th year anniversary.

The law that established the public school system as an autonomous department was en-

acted on Oct. 25, 1978, during the time of former governor Pete Tenorio.

Sablan disclosed that a reenactment of the signing by the former governor is being planned and that they have already gotten a positive response from Tenorio.

PSS will also recognize previous Board of Education members, education commissioners, and school administrators who have played pivotal role in the continued success of public education on the islands.

PSS has had six education chiefs since its inception. Henry Sablan

was the first education commissioner and transitioned the then-Department of Education into a public school system. He was followed by Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei and was succeeded by William Torres. The late Dr. Rita Inos took over from Torres, followed by Dr. David Borja. In 2008, Dr. Sablan was appointed to the position.

"There are so many wonderful people that really have been

part of CNMI-PSS. They have made a lot of impact to where we are today and we want to recognize them," said Sablan, who herself will also mark her 25th year this year with PSS.

Saipan Tribune learned that the organizing committee for the special



Sablan

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San Jose Village
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Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,
vs. Civil Action
No. 03-0352D
NOTICE OF AUCTION
ANGYUTA SHIPPING
COMPANY, LTD.,
FIDEL A. MENDIOLA,
FERMINA S. MENDIOLA,
FIDEL S. MENDIOLA, JR.,
CELESTE S. MENDIOLA,
and the Estate of
DIMAS A. HOCOS,
JUAN M. AYUYU, and
DANIEL D. SASAKURA,
Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Fidel S. Mendiola, Jr. and Fermina S. Mendiola, in the following described, real properties situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 345 R 215, an containing an area of 1,020 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 05, dated May 11, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference;

and

Tract No. 22080, situated in Mua, Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 42,813 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 2004/77, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7211, on March 1, 1978;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Olesi, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2013**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Fidel S. Mendiola Jr., and Fermina S. Mendiola in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

JENNIFER DOCKTER
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2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
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Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,
vs. Civil Action
No. 10-0162
NOTICE OF AUCTION
HENRY ERNEST U.
HOFSCHEIDER,
Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant Henry Ernest U. Hofschneider in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 119 T 18, containing an area of 2,764 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Plat of Lot No. 119 T 09, DLS Check No. 119 T 02, and filed with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 13, 1987, as File No. 87-0764, including all existing and future improvements on the said property

and

Lot No. 119 T 19, containing an area of 2,764 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Plat of Lot No. 119 T 09, DLS Check No. 119 T 02, and filed with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 13, 1987, as File No. 87-0764, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Olesi, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2013**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Henry Ernest U. Hofschneider in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

JENNIFER DOCKTER
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,
vs. Civil Action
No. 11-0178
NOTICE OF AUCTION
JOAQUIN H. BORJA and
SOOK M. BORJA,
Defendants.

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Joaquin H. Borja and Sook M. Borja in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot 118 T 05, containing an area of 1,189 square meters, more or less, as shown on Plat No. 118 T 01 and recorded under File No. 11984;

and

Lot 006 T 24, containing an area of 966 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 006 T 01 dated April 29, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Olesi, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2013**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Joaquin H. Borja and Sook M. Borja in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

occasion is Garapan Elementary School, headed by principal Paulette Sablan.

According to Sablan, there will be several events lined up, one of which is the Education Day event on Oct. 25 on Saipan; Oct. 24 on Tinian; and Oct. 23 on Rota. There will be no class-

es on these days.

From the usual separate awarding rites for Teacher of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, Counselor of the Year, and other educational awardees, Sablan said that all awardees will be honored on Oct. 25. A final venue has yet to be determined.

Service of 2 commissioned corps officers at CHC until end of Sept.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center will soon lose the services of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps after its remaining members' contracts with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. expires this week.

Interim corporation CEO Esther Muña confirmed yesterday that the contracts for the federal team members will expire on Saturday, Sept. 7. However, they were approved a short extension until the end of this month.

Muña said that only two USPHS officers remain with the hospital. One of them is serving as the hospital's laboratory manager, a hard-to-fill position. "There are two USPHS officers on site. We were advised today [Wednesday] that their stay is extended till Sept. 30," said Muña yesterday.

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps sent a team of medical person-

nel in December 2012 to assist the hospital, which was then at the brink of losing its certification from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

The medical team, composed of 16 officers, was at the time led by Rear Adm. Newton E. Kendig, medical director and assistant director of the Health Services Division of the Bureau of Prisons. The team was assigned a 90-day mentoring mission at CHC to ensure the facility's continued certification with CMS.

The team's deployment was the result of a memorandum of agreement between the CNMI, USHHS, and the Office of Insular Affairs, which funded the salaries of the visiting group.

When they left in March 2013 upon the expiration of their 90-day mission, the team left behind some members to continue assisting and filling key roles, including the lab manager position.

Prior to their exit, the group completed a sustainability plan that was intended to serve as a

In the days leading to the celebration, there will be essay, logo, and theme competitions for students district-wide.

PSS has an average of over 10,000 students and more than 900 employees each school year. It has 19 campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"starting point" for the hospital. This comprehensive report includes operational recommendations for quality practice and sustainability for CHC. The corps also staged a mock visit to help prepare CHC for an upcoming CMS visit.

Muña did not identify the two remaining USPHS officers and did not provide a response when asked about the corporation's plans after the two's departure.

During last week's meeting of the CHCC board, Muna said that since the corporation now has a new laboratory director in Dr. Philip Dauterman, CMS indicated during its biweekly conference that as long as a lab director is present, the lack of a laboratory manager will not hamper lab operations.

CHC, which remains under a state of emergency, is still addressing the concerns of CMS in its September 2012 survey visit where it identified 13 areas of concern that need to be rectified. Medicare has scheduled a resurvey visit to the hospital in October this year.

Govt nominates Guam exec for settlement fund trustee

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government added yesterday Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority board of commissioners chair

David J. Sablan as its nominee for the position of a trustee who will run the settlement fund that will be created under the settlement agreement.

Assistant attorney general Gilbert J. Birnbrich informed

the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Sablan would make "an excellent trustee."

"Mr. Sablan is highly qualified for the position of settlement fund trustee. Mr. Sablan satisfies the qualities that the CNMI government outlined in its prior submission," Birnbrich said.

The government lawyer said that Sablan has extensive business management experience and has experience dealing with government operations and government officials.

Sablan is also currently the national committeeman from Guam to the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C.

Importantly, Birnbrich said, the nominee is willing to perform as trustee for a reasonable \$80 per hour.

Birnbrich acknowledged, however, that Sablan's nomination is after the court's deadline for submission of nominations.

The government's other nominee is Guam-based Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee Mark J. Heath.

Betty Johnson and the NMI Retirement Fund had already submitted five nominees for the position.

The deadline of submission was Aug. 29, 2013. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood started interviewing the nominees on Aug. 31.



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PUBLIC NOTICE AMENDMENT 01

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - Division Monthly Reports
 - Update on CDBG Matters
 - Update on Program and Housing Division Matters
 - Update on Mortgage & Credit Division Matters
 - Loans for Review and Approval
- IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**
 - Rota Field Office
 - Tinian Field Office
- V. FISCAL AFFAIRS**
 - Amended FY 2014 Budget
 - Fiscal Division Audit Reports
 - Tottotville Settlement
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

Introduction of evidence linking Crisostomo to 2006 murder opposed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyer of murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo has opposed the Office of the Attorney General's request to introduce evidence allegedly linking the defendant to the killing of a woman at Laulau Beach in 2006.

Attorney Janet H. King said the identity of the killer of bartender Emerita Romero will be the primary issue at trial and that the

government's case on this point is entirely circumstantial.

She said the government is attempting to identify Crisostomo as the culprit in Romero's murder by proof of his being an alleged suspect in a different murder of a woman in 2006.

"In order to identify the defendant in this manner, it is not sufficient to show similar acts were committed in both deaths if the method used is not uncommon," King said.

She said the circumstance the government wants to say mirrors the 2006 murder with that of Romero's is that a rented sedan from Islander Rent-A-Car is allegedly involved.

"Even if it was true (as it is yet an allegation), this action of renting a car from Islander Rent-A-Car is not unique and thus cannot serve to identify anyone as the killer in either case," King said.

The lawyer pointed out that

simply categorizing Crisostomo as a suspect in a 2006 murder case—for which he is not even charged—"would be of little probative value in determining whether he committed the crimes charged in either case, and the prejudice would be great."

Assistant attorney general James B. McAllister filed last week a notice of intent to introduce evidence at trial of Crisostomo's other "crimes, wrongs, or acts."

McAllister had disclosed that Crisostomo, who is facing charges in the kidnapping and murder of Romero, is also a suspect in the killing of Bao Ying Chen in November 2006.

McAllister disclosed details in court documents on how Bao was kidnapped and killed in a pattern similar to that of Romero: the use a rented car and via asphyxiation.

McAllister said that in the early morning hours of Nov. 23, 2006, after smoking crystal methamphetamine or "ice," Crisostomo used a Toyota sedan rented from Islander Rent-A-Car to kidnap, rob, and murder Chen by strangling her.

The prosecutor said that Chen's cell phone and other personal items were later seen in Crisostomo's possession inside the rental car.

He said the defendant cleaned the interior of the vehicle and had his acquaintance return the car to Islander Rent-A-Car.

Two fishermen found Chen's body along the shoreline of Laulau Beach in the afternoon of Nov. 23, 2006. An autopsy determined that she died of asphyxiation by drowning.

Romero's body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012. An autopsy showed that she died as a result of asphyxia due to strangulation.

CHCC joins nation in celebrating Nephrology Nurses' Week

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Dialysis Unit will join the American Nephrology Nurses' Association in a nationwide celebration honoring nephrology nurses on Sept. 8-14.

Nephrology nurses care for patients with kidney disease and provide lifesaving care each day. To honor their passion and commitment, ANNA designated the second full week of September each year as Nephrology Nurses' Week. This year, the CNMI will mark the event with activities recognizing and rewarding nephrology nurses.

Dr. Sherleen Osman, the hospital's director for Medical Affairs, will spearhead the week-long celebration by offering a public health fair from Monday to Wednesday—Sept. 9-11—that will focus on hypertension, diabetes, and obesity.

Throughout these days, nursing staff from the hospital and nursing students from the Northern Marianas College will perform blood pressure checks, random blood sugar testing, and body mass index measurements in the Dialysis Unit lobby from 9 am-11 am and 1 pm-3 pm.

Consultation services during this outreach program will also be provided by nephrology nurse practitioner Tara Peacock, NP.

According to dialysis unit manager Karlo Reyes III, this outreach program is free and open to the public. The health fair is also being coordinated by DPH's Becky Robles and nurse Ernesto Molina.

On Sept. 13, CHCC nephrology nurses will undergo in-service trainings to keep them abreast of the latest policies, treatments, and kidney-related research. The weeklong celebration will be capped by recognizing exemplary nephrology nurses.

ANNA has chosen the theme "Nephrology Nurses Take Action" for this year's celebration. The theme highlights the way nephrology nurses use their vision, knowledge, and skills to take action and improve patient outcomes. Caring for kidney patients requires nurses to be highly skilled, well educated, and motivated, and nephrology nurses cite the variety and challenges of the specialty as fueling their ongoing passion.

"Nephrology nurses function as educators, direct caregivers,

and coordinators to help patients manage their lives while effectively dealing with their health issues. We want to dedicate this week to celebrate and honor the unselfish work nephrology nurses in the CNMI perform daily to uphold the health of hundreds of individuals in the CNMI afflicted with kidney disease," said Reyes.

ANNA launched Nephrology Nurses Week in 2005 to give employers, patients, and others the opportunity to thank nephrology nurses for their lifesaving work. In addition, ANNA also hopes to spark interest in other nurses about the multifaceted career opportuni-

ties available in nephrology. One of the most diverse nursing specialties practiced today, nephrology nurses care for patients of all ages who have, or are at risk for, kidney disease.

About 20 million Americans suffer from kidney disease. Of those patients, over 400,000 experience kidney failure. The rising number of people with kidney disease, many of whom are minorities, is in part attributed to the country's obesity epidemic, an alarming trend that has led to more cases of diabetes and high blood pressure. Both of these diseases are major contributors to kidney failure.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-168**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR
THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - TINIAN
BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the public that **NANCY BALDOZ** (USP4GG member) and USP4GG volunteers **GERRY MALIT, ROSENDO MACEDA** and **MARIE BALLARES**, are no longer connected or affiliated with the undersigned and US Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG).

Any transaction or services conducted by above named individuals are not authorized by USP4GG.

Dr. Celia Lamkin
Chairperson
US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter
(CNMI and Guam)

Approved by: Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis
National Chairperson
US Pinoys for Good Governance

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday,
September 19th, 2013
at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor,
Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of August 22nd, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Application #2013-0270. Saipan Surfrider, LLC is requesting to construct and operate a Resort Spa and Beach Club in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lots 008 H 31/ 32/ 33/ 36/ 37/ 29 and 012 H 20. These areas are located north and northeast of Sandy Beach Homes and west of main Beach Road. They are zoned as Village Commercial and Tourist Resort zoning districts.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Business (Poker) law of 2013, authored by Representative Ray A. Tebuteb, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. Deleon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogomoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Surfrider, LLC is requesting to construct and operate a Resort Spa and Beach Club in Chalan Kanoa. This use is classified as a Hotel and is located on lots 008 H 31/ 32/ 33/ 36/ 37/ 29 and 012 H 20. These areas are located north and northeast of Sandy Beach Homes and west of main Beach Road. They are zoned as Village Commercial and Tourist Resort zoning districts.

Date: September 19th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, September 18th, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 13-047

Opening Date: Friday, August 23, 2013
Closing Date: Friday, September 06, 2013

Trades Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction; Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned; Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed; Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned; Maintains level of supplies and equipment; Operating the control room by monitoring balance and fuel consumption and synchronizing feeders; Serving as an auxiliary operator by monitoring lubrication oil, fuel, water and air temperatures and taking readings; Taking readings to ensure temperatures, pressure and tank levels are in normal range; Starting engines; Monitoring loads on feeders and generators; Taking midnight readings; Incinerating waste oil; Performing startup operations; Minor and major repairs and overhauls on equipment; Reconditioning equipment; Fabricating parts; Calibrating equipment and performing adjustments; Performing janitorial duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION(S): Power Plant, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(May periodically be assigned to work in other facilities throughout CUC, throughout the CNMI.)

SALARY: \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and four years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Saipan Awaodori Team acquits itself well

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Awaodori Team that recently returned from Japan acquitted themselves well during its nearly two-month stint performing in a number of Awaodori Festivals, according to PDI Promoters, Inc. CEO Misako Kamata.

The owner of Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan said the islands' eight-person delegation improved week after week performing alongside its mother organization, Tokyo Tensui Group.

She said the group got a lot of pointers and personal instruction from members of the Tokyo Tensui Group headed by Yukihiro Iwanami.

The Saipan team was made up of drummers/musicians Zacarias Sakisat and siblings Mitsunobu and Ran Suzuki as well as dancers Itheyvin They, Ronald Fitipol, Cody Litulumar, Nyla Sablan, and Elisa Lazaro.

Kamata said the Saipan Awaodori Team couldn't help but stand out during their performances and many in the audience were surprised after finding out that some of the dancers are in fact from Saipan. "The crowd would acknowledge them and everyone seems to know were Saipan is," said Kamata.

The Saipan Awaodori Team's instructors, Mayumi Suzuki and Shunsuke Katagiri, also had kind words for the members of the local group. The two said that after some initial jitters, the local team eventually figured out how to perform effectively with the Tokyo Tensui Group.

Suzuki and Katagiri echoed Kamata's observations that the



ROBERT SVARD

Saipan Awaodori Team drummer Zacarias Sakisat enthusiastically performs during the Koenji Awaodori Festival last Aug. 24.

members improved steadily as the weeks went by.

They said the group also got some important mentoring from older and more veteran Tokyo Tensui Group members, some of who have been performing for more than 30 years. Suzuki said there was a member of the Japanese group who was already 70 years old but still danced with enthusiasm and gusto.

Longtime Japan resident and

blogger Robert Svård had nothing but glowing words for the Saipan Awaodori Team in a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"The first time I saw them they seemed happy and proud to be part of the team. It takes a lot of courage and strength to take part in such a famous team in one of the biggest festivals in Japan. I could tell they still had some way to go and that the Japanese members were very good in help-

ing them, like parents watching over their own children."

That all changed when he saw them perform in the Koenji Awaodori Festival last Aug. 24.

"This time I could see their strength and confidence in themselves, their ready smiles and sense of rhythm. They were dancing as well as any of the other participants—there was no telling them apart! Tensui Group has one of the absolutely best drum sections of any Awaodori team that I have ever seen, but the Saipan members could hold their own and really impressed the audience. I know the drumming especially really impressed me! I speak Japanese and I could hear the Japanese ladies next to me saying that 'those foreigners are really good' and 'that drummer is really kakkoi (cool).'"

Svård was impressed not only with how the Saipan Awaodori Team improved after nearly two months in Japan but also how well they assimilated with the Tokyo Tensui Group.

"I think the only way to be really accepted in Awaodori is to give it everything you have got, especially as foreigners, and the Saipan team are really doing that, they seem to be putting even more effort and training into it! Last but not least, dancing for hours on end in the hot Tokyo summer is very hard, but when they came past me they looked as fresh as if they had just started. Every time I see the Tensui I look out for the Saipan members! Oh and did I mention the drummers? Unbelievably good. I think I wasn't the only one in the cheering audience that had goose bumps after that!"



ROBERT SVARD

Saipan Awaodori Team's Cody Litulumar during the Koenji Awaodori Festival last Aug. 24.



ROBERT SVARD

Saipan Awaodori Team dancer Theyvin They performs with the Tokyo Tensui Group during the Koenji Awaodori Festival last Aug. 24.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 5, 2005

'CNMI govt incurring deficit from the start'

Data showed that the CNMI government has been incurring a budget deficit since it first became a Commonwealth in 1978, resulting in a cumulative "unreserved" fund balance deficit of \$25.3 million as of the end of fiscal year 1986, when the single audit reporting was finally implemented. Authorities said that when first CNMI Gov. Carlos S. Camacho ended his term in 1982, the government recorded \$5 million in deficit. Based on audit reports filed with the department, the deficit rose to \$27.4 million in FY 1987, then went down to \$17.7 million by FY 1987, \$11.5 million in FY 1989; this further went down to \$6.9 million by FY 1990.

'Continental to lay off some workers'

A number of Continental Micronesia employees on Saipan are facing almost certain furlough after the airline reportedly lost its bid for a new ground-handling service contract with Northwest Airlines. A source who refused to be named said Northwest was awarding the service contract to neither Continental nor Pacific Oriental Inc., the other company providing ground-handling services at the Saipan International Airport. The Saipan Tribune tried, but failed to reach Continental staff vice president for sales marketing Walter B. Dias or POI general manager Frank Camacho.

September 5, 2006

One zone for adult businesses in one year

Adult establishments will be relocated in one area within a year if the proposed zoning law is enacted. The Commonwealth Zoning Board has drafted legislation that would amend portions of the Saipan zoning law to address the issue of adult businesses. The Zoning Board is now circulating copies of the proposal for public review and comment. A public hearing is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 22, 2006, 6pm, at the Multi Purpose Center in Susupe. "The changes to the Zoning Law would affect all of Saipan," Zoning Board chair Henry Hofschneider had told the Legislature. "New adult businesses would only be allowed in certain areas. Existing nonconforming uses would be required to cease operation within a specified period of time, allowing amortization of current investments."

Justices junk request for sanctions vs govt

The CNMI Supreme Court has dismissed a land compensation claimant's motion to impose sanctions against the Commonwealth government for blocking the payment of her compensation. The High Court justices ruled that they cannot exercise jurisdiction over Rosario DLG. Kumagai's appeal because of the absence of a certification for a final judgment as to one of the parties in the case. "We hold that because the Superior Court's denial of Rosario DLG. Kumagai's motion for reconsideration adjudicated fewer than all of the claims in the underlying lawsuit, in the absence of said court's express direction for the entry of judgment pursuant to Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedures 54(b), there is no appellate jurisdiction in this case," said the justices in granting the government's motion to dismiss the appeal.

September 5, 2007

'CUC not overcharging customers'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is not overcharging its customers and in fact since implementing the new electric rates that charge customers their own actual fuel expenses, the public utility has still under-recovered \$684,857. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis told Saipan Tribune that the fuel rate is always very close to the actual expenses and number of kilowatt hours sold. "There is no pot of gold at CUC; no savings account—we have to date not even collected what it really costs to get that fuel," Mathis said.

'Things have changed since 2004'

David Cohen says the CNMI's situation is different now from 2004, and that explains what critics have characterized as his conflicting positions on the issue of granting permanent status to long-term guest workers on island. Cohen, the U.S. Interior Department's deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, issued the statement in response to attacks by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's political party. The CNMI Covenant Party had accused Cohen of acting as the "savior" of foreign workers now when he spoke against the granting of "green cards" to the same workers only a few years ago.

Kilili statement on Syria

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) released the following statement yesterday regarding the upcoming debate in Congress about U.S. military action in Syria:

"Last Thursday, together with 60 other Members of Congress I wrote to President Obama condemning the apparent use of chemical weapons in Syria. We also urged the President to seek the agreement of Congress before taking any military action. I thank the President for heeding our call.

"Next week, Congress returns to Washington and the Syria debate will be front and center. The Northern Marianas will not have a vote in any resolution approving military action. Yet our men and women in the military could be put in harm's way by a



Sablan

certain that we know chemical weapons have been used—and who used them. There will continue to be classified briefings for Members of Congress from the National Security Agency and the White House that I will attend next week.

"I will be looking closely at what alternative responses there may be, short of the U.S. taking unilateral action against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad in Syria. And I will be question-

ing what the outcome is likely to be if the U.S. does strike against Assad in retaliation for the chemical attack.

"The Northern Mariana Islands has lost 18 fine young men and women during the wars of the last decade. Before putting any more lives at risk, I want to know that we are certain of why we are acting and we have an endgame. Most important of all, I want to be certain that we have looked at every alternative before the U.S. commits its military forces or limited financial resources.

"We cannot stand by, while chemical weapons are being used in violation of international law. But we cannot send Americans to war without clearly defined goals that make the risk worthwhile." (PR)

"We cannot stand by, while chemical weapons are being used in violation of international law. But we cannot send Americans to war without clearly defined goals that make the risk worthwhile." (PR)

"We cannot stand by, while chemical weapons are being used in violation of international law. But we cannot send Americans to war without clearly defined goals that make the risk worthwhile." (PR)

Presentation on Chamorro *sakman* Tuesday

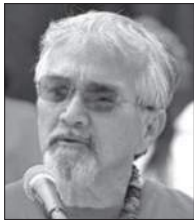
The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is inviting the public to a presentation by master carver Mario Reyes Borja that will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park.

In his presentation, titled "Our Sakman Story: A Sentence in History," Borja will tell the story about the traditional Chamorro sailing canoe or *sakman* using details recorded by British naval officers on Tinian in 1742.

Chamorros built fine-made outrigger sailing canoes for thousands of years until their de-

mise in the decades following Spanish colonization in the 17th century. These canoes were called "flying proa" by Europeans because of their speed and nimbleness.

Borja, a native son of Saipan, has degrees in aerospace engineering and astrodynamics. He served in the military as a space systems surveillance engineer for more than 20 years and now



Borja

lives with his wife in San Diego, California.

An active culturalist, Borja recently led the construction of a 47-foot replica of a traditional Chamorro sailing canoe. He has plans of sailing the canoe from California to the Marianas in early 2016.

This event is a part of the Council's ongoing Community Lecture series that features presentations by local, regional, and international scholars on a variety of humanities topics.

Please contact Council staff at 235-4785 for additional details. (NMI Humanities Council)

Kagman clinic now open Saturdays

In order to be more accessible to the community, the Kagman Community Health Center is opening its doors for services on Saturday mornings from 8am to 12pm beginning Sept. 7, 2013.

The new hours of operations

are as follows:

- Monday: 8am - 4pm
- Tuesday: 8am - 4pm
- Wednesday: 12:30 pm - 4pm
- Thursday: 8am - 4pm
- Friday: 8am - 4pm
- Saturday: 8am - 12pm
- Sunday: Closed

Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen.

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). More information about KCHC is available at its website at www.kagmanhc.org.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that reside outside the Kagman area. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 7th birthday to our princess, Franishia Jolie Attao Babauta! We hope you enjoy your special day and many more birthdays to come! With lots of love, hugs, and kisses from Mommy, Daddy Baby D, and Jervanny Lynn.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Oleai Elementary Open House today

Oleai Elementary School will host an Open House for parents and guardians of kindergarten to 6th grade students today, Sept. 5, 2013, from 4pm to 6pm in your child(s) respective classrooms. Also, the first PTSA meeting for the school year will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. (PR)

Bereaved Families support group meeting today

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, Sept. 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. (PR)

Four Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on four beach sites on Saipan—San Roque School, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Hafa Adai Drainage, and Civic Center Beach—and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



IS LOOKING FOR

Our Saipan Office

Airport Representative (10)

- Valid CNMI driver's license required, knowledge in Japanese/Chinese/Korean language is preferred

Guest Service Representative (10)

- Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, previous experience in hospitality industry preferred

Our Tinian Business Site

- **Accounting Clerk (2)** - Previous experience in accounting preferred
- **Computer Technician (MIS) (1)** - Minimum 2 years experience. - Formal training/education is strongly preferred
- **Bar Attendant (4)** - Minimum two years experience
- **Storekeeper (2)** - Must be able to lift and carry weight up to 50lbs
- **Waitstaff (Waiter/Waitress) (20)**
- **Lifeguard (2)** - Lifeguard Certification is required
- **Cooks (Cantonese Cuisine (3), Korean Cuisine (3), Western Cuisine (3))** - Minimum 2 years culinary experience, formal training /education in culinary arts is strongly preferred
- **Housekeeping Attendant (20)**
- **Engineering Staffs**
A/C Technician (2), Plumber (2), Electrician (2), Mechanic(2), Carpenter (2)
Minimum 2 years experience, formal training/education is strongly preferred
- **Cage Teller (7)**
Must have strong mathematical and money handling skills, minimum 2 years experience as Bank Teller or Cashier type occupation is preferred
- **Surveillance Operator (2)**
Minimum 1 year experience as Surveillance or CCTV operator
- **Security Officer (10)**
Must pass Physical Fitness Test
- **Guest Relation Officer (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, must have excellent people skills.
- **VIP Host (10)**
Excellent communication skills, computer literate, proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean languages, knowledge of casino games, minimum 2 years experience in Casino industry
- **Casino Dealer (60)***
1 year experience as Casino Dealer

* Interested applicants without experience may qualify for the Casino Dealer Training Program. Minimum of 10 qualified applicants.

Minimum qualification requirements for all positions listed

At least 18 years of age. High school graduate or equivalent.
Authorized to work in the US. Must be able to work flexible hours and night shift.
Good customer service, communication and interpersonal skills.

Employment Application Forms are available at

2/F Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

or request through e-mail - tdh.hrd@pticom.com / Fax - (670) 328-1106

For Saipan Applicants - e-mail or fax to request and submit Application Form.
Completed application form and all necessary requirements must be submitted on or before **September 11, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.**
Incomplete application will not be accepted

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 177Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congressional debate on Syria is essential

As Americans grapple with their feelings about a U.S. military attack in Syria, it is fitting that President Barack Obama has asked Congress for authorization.

Echoes of Iraq hang heavily over this decision. A full and open debate—particularly as our normally staunch ally, Great Britain, has decided to remain on the sideline—can only strengthen the country. If the decision is to act on the horrific use of chemical weapons in Syria, it will be a consensus of our national leadership, not a stand only by the commander in chief.

But the debate should take place now. Senate and House leaders should call their members back from recess immediately instead of waiting until Sept. 9.

Seeking congressional approval for military action is a serious risk for Obama. With both the left and right split on this, it's entirely possible the president won't get the authorization he seeks. But this choice is consistent with the promises he made as a presidential candidate and with his criticism of his predecessor for acting in Iraq without first coming to Congress. It recognizes the scars of the Iraq war on our national psyche.

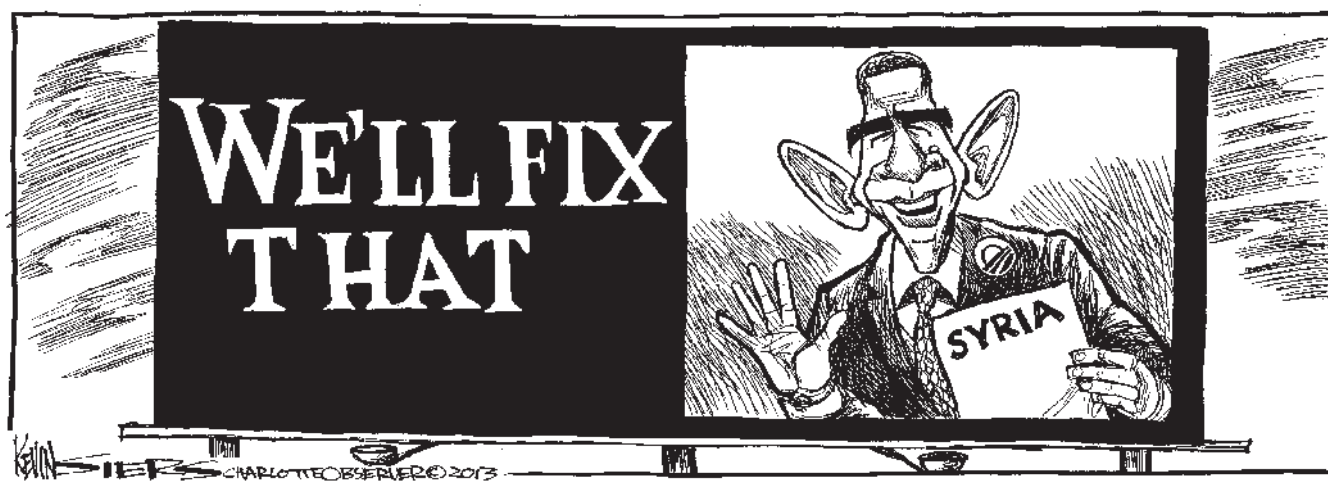
There are many differences between the situation faced by Obama and the one George W. Bush faced more than a decade ago, the main one being that Bush did everything he could to launch a war. Obama has done everything possible to avoid another military action.

The grisly chemical weapons attack on Aug. 21, which reportedly killed more than 1,400 people, including more than 400 children, has changed his thinking. Obama has crusaded against the use and proliferation of chemical and nuclear weapons. In advocating for retaliation, he is keeping faith with that past and pushing the international community to live up to its own words. A failure to respond in any way would embolden Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad and his ilk around the world.

If we are going to launch even a limited military strike against Syria, which is Obama wants, Americans should fully understand the reasons and the potential consequences. A sober and, for once, nonpartisan debate in Congress, is the best way for that to happen. This is particularly true if the U.S. ends up being the only nation willing to stand against the use of chemical weapons.

But weeks are passing. The debate needs to begin as soon as possible, befitting the urgency and unusual nature of what's proposed. Senators and representatives should be booking their flights.

©2013 San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)



How a demon iPad stole my summer vacation

I plan to remember this year's vacation season with just two words: Never again.

Never again, that is, will I take all my technology along. The Internet has ruined summer vacations.

When I first visited my in-laws' cabin in Ontario's north woods 35 years ago, there was no such thing as broadband Internet. The nearest telephone was a one-mile canoe paddle down the lake, and we were beyond the reach of television. Our media diet consisted of a battery-powered radio. I know I risk sounding like an aging crank, but it was paradise.

Now we're cursed with all the riches of modern civilization. The cabin is just close enough to civilization to get a strong cellphone signal, and that goes for data too, via a mobile Wi-Fi hot spot. Our little bit of isolation is no more.

Instead of browsing dog-eared summer-house mystery novels and bodice rippers, this year we browsed the Internet. Instead of long evenings of Scrabble or Monopoly or poker, we checked our Twitter feeds and updated our Facebook pages.

And that, of course, is the problem with the Internet: It's so easy that, unless you're equipped with massive self-control, you use it if it's there.

What did we lose?

For a news junkie like me, being cut off for a few weeks used to be a good thing. It forced me to stop following what politicians were saying and allowed me to read novels, histories, even old magazine articles carefully set aside all year in a vacation reading box.

When anyone got bored with reading, we had other pre-modern forms of entertainment: hiking, swimming, canoeing, competitive baking, stargazing and card games. My daughters would never have learned the rules of Texas Hold 'Em if not for their father's tutelage on summer vacations.

The path to paradise lost has been gradual. For several years, I kept my Internet addiction under control by using inconvenient technology: a creaky laptop and a slow dial-up connection. But this year, the combination of a new iPad and that nifty Wi-Fi turned out to be fatal.

The demon iPad beckoned silently from the picnic table: What harm could it be to give the email a quick check? But once that alluring touchscreen lights up, who can resist lingering?

I'm not the first to stumble across this problem, of course. I'm a late adopter, even when it comes to vices.

As early as 2008, Nicholas Carr, author of "The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains," was warning that broadband Internet was reducing our attention spans and making us stupid. The Web, he said, encourages us to lapse into our "natural state of distractedness."

Even before that, in the pre-broadband Ice Age of 2000, Harvard's Robert Putnam warned that television—and, more broadly, staring into any kind of screen—had reduced the amount of time families spent in social interactions like, well, penny-ante poker at

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



a picnic table.

And last year, researchers at UC Irvine reported that employees who were unplugged from their email got more work done—and experienced far less stress.

Now, I'm not bemoaning the loss of total isolation or advocating unplugging from the Internet entirely. Access to the Web is unquestionably a wonderful thing. I love having a bottomless library at my fingertips; I love having the world's newspapers on my electronic doorstep. I love being able to pay bills and make airplane reservations online. And, thanks to those ugly cellphone towers in the woods, we now have a way to call for help if we need an ambulance or a fire truck.

It's also nice to have an app that identifies the constellations when you hold the iPad up to the night sky. But then, you have to remember to put the screen down and simply drink in the stars—the original, uncut version.

And that's the point: It's important not to let the convenience of the Internet get in the way of simpler beauties.

That's not the Internet's fault. It's ours, for failing to curb the urge to browse.

I grew to envy our neighbor down the lake who opted to go without Internet access. He didn't cut himself off entirely; whenever he made a trip to town, he sat on the park bench in front of the public library to use the Wi-Fi. But the rest of the time, he stayed unplugged.

In retrospect, that sounds pretty good. I don't think I'm desperate enough to need a term in the Internet rescue camps of South Korea. And I'm too cheap to shell out 10 bucks for the software that turns your Internet connection off for as many hours as you want. (Bonus tech tip: You can turn it off yourself, for free. Go to "Settings.")

The first step toward recovery is admitting you have a problem. My problem isn't the Internet, it's learning how to limit the time I spend on it.

So now I have one more thing to look forward to next summer: More time reading old novels; more time playing Scrabble and chasing frogs.

Next year, I promise to unplug. Except, of course, when we need to find a new bike trail, or Google a recipe for wild blueberry pie or check whether "qi" is an acceptable word in Scrabble. And, while I'm online, could it hurt to take one little peek at the email?

Madiriten Inaṅgogku

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Ihinalom afnu’ debi u hatsa parehu todū bote gi tasi yan pantalan. Lau memegaiña man-gaige ha’ gi fondun tasi. Man-mamatmos gi halom miserapblen destrosiau na pisun ekonomia. Mientras ma-espipiha linala’ niha, sige i man-ma’gas maluf i trosun ais (iceberg) ni fumondu batko-ta. Dimas de uma-kude i linahyan, sige mana’ mafñot mas kotbatan niha kulan taya’ iran diskuidun niha gi tautau siha. De dios mihu na mañan muron.

Yangin kontodu bisnis taia’ (rueda) sige mahuchum pettan niha, pues aṅgogku na mas baba i tafafana’ na kondision ekonomia entre este yan otu sakan.

I ma-utot pagamienton man-ritirau, subridan health insurance, 6,000 (sais mit mas) ni man-tai che’chu’, mahatsan apas kandet gi Oktubre na mes yan mahatsan otu gastun nesessidat familia siha nahuṅ para u sapet mas i publiku. Puru che’chu’ diskuidun man-ma’gas!

Este na kondision lamegai para u fuñut ha’anen niha, diariamente. Makat na kontrariu piot ‘nai sige ha’ i komunidan bisnis de maribaha pot inipos ginaguaña apas kandet yan hanom.

Yangin guaha ga’ga’ politika man-hahassu muna’ lagse mas dinagiña, atan kau ti humuhula’ kabayumu sa’ fatigau ni taya’ pastu.

‘Nai appenas esperansa

‘People First Language’

By **THOMAS M. THORNBURGH**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I have been asked about this subject a couple of dozen times, so this is my attempt at giving our community more insight into People First Language.

This is a concept of ensuring that people with disabilities are called people first, before any impairment or disability. Instead of using a disability as a way to call a person, such as “hey blind dude” or “you quadriplegic,” you say “man with visual impairment” or “person who cannot walk.” It is a way to ensure dignity and respect for people with disabilities.

Dignity and respect is something we should expect from one another as we are all living on this rock in the middle of the sea. You never know when you will need someone’s help regardless of disability.

This concept is part of the Disability Rights Movement in America. In 1989, just before the American’s with Disabilities Act of 1990 came into being, the “People First Language” move-

Hu huṅgog gi silensiu na patten konbetsasion i te’ug na pininiten aseguraa na planun para umadiṅgu i tanu’. Sumeha-yu’ pot para bai’ chage kumomprende i a’gaṅ na mensahe gi finu’ niha. Sigeyu’ lumuchan kattan mientras hu chochoneg gi un’ banda kadu’ ti huhu-ṅgog i man-saṅgan.

Layeye na chetton este na sentimiento giya guahu sa’ iya Marianas i tanu’ natibu. Gi O’Perlas este siha na islas ‘nai gaige fitme na inaṅgogkun paraisu. Gi mismu tiempu, klaru lokue’ na hita fuma’ sasalaguan i tano’ta kontra tautau-ta mismu.

Guaha sais mit (6,000) mantai che’chu’ mientras 52 pot sientu mangai che’chu’ lau gaige sueddon niha gi papa’ mafanana’an pov-erty level income. Gi todū birada mas kahulu’ i gaston linala mien-tras i man-sabiun I Deni’ sige man-achatge kulan todū felis.

Haf’ na ti siña guaha sensian hinimidde taiguihe mañeluta giya Luta yan Tinian ‘nai ni unu kinetbaba-ta’

Man-ñahlalaṅ

Hu soda’ i boys mangigimen gi kantun tasi giya Garapan. Kase esta nahuṅ na lateria ma-uṅgag hombre maṅgakanta sunidon Christ-mas. Ai mattu gi man-disintunau na kontodu i katdumin pegi’ sige maṅgilulog kulan mohon man-maderis. A’ Saina!

Tres ira sige man-destrosia gi todū elmundu: Kimason halom tanu’ siha giya America hektarias pot hektarias, fotten uchan ni muna’ gagama iya Manila, yan linau. Man-suette hit sa’ esta la ap-mam deste ke ha higa’ hit daṅkulu na pagyu.

Ti este problema-hu soluke i mampos silensiu na paṅgpaṅ napu yan maṅglu’ desde lemmem tautau esta i finattun chatagmag. Kau señať este yan haf’ mamamaila’?

I tanu’ ridondu ya haf’ humuyuṅ gi un’ punta u fattu tatte gi otu banda. ‘Nai un’ tailayiye prohimumu piot i linahyan, buente malefa hau na ginen hilu’ ennau na regalu gi hilu’ inaṅgoghu para un’ es-gaihon i tautau-mu guatu gi plaset prosperu. Yangin otu bidamu ni tailaye, pues guaha mas para hagu ‘nai ha birague’ i kumilulog huyuṅ na kosas ya poduṅ gi menan pettamu.

ment began. It is more difficult to say “A person with a disability” versus “the deaf dude” but everyone deserves dignity and respect. Throughout its history, America as a country has learned from its mistakes and in our quest for equality, and to fight the discrimination facing people with disabilities, the People First Language Movement was developed by advocates and people with disabilities.

It already has made some impact. For example, the naming of the law, Americans with Disabilities Act, followed People First Language, as its name places the human value of being an American before a disability. The Education for All Handi-capped Children’s Act of 1975 was changed to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1990 to reflect People First Lan-guage. The word “handicapped” is also considered very deroga-tory, as it came out after World War I, when American soldiers came back from war and lost limbs. They used a cap in hand to ask for money from people passing by. This practice led to the creation of the word “handicapped.” People with disabilities in America today do not want others to feel sorry for them. Some

Ti hoṅgiyun i guaha gai higadu humasṅgune fumuñut lina’la’ i linahyan pot umeyag ambenteria. Maseha haye na offisiat publiku, gigon ha tutuhon bumanidosuye asuntun linahyan, siempre u lot-gun gi kantit destrosiu. Pa’gu yangin klaru na ti un’ komprende haf’ offisiomu, siempre lokue’ i publiku un’ nina’ deskansa sa’ ti para un’ ma-apapase \$90,000 pesos gi sakan para man-gotden kotbata piot ya mamatmos hau buska bidan pustura.

I ga’ga’ yan tinanom gi oriya solu siña kumatga seriuso na pi-nadese ni dipotsihe para un’ membron familia. Ti hu hoṅge lau dispues ‘nai hu akanteha para bai’ lie’ haf’ tinateña yan dadalagña. Ti presisu bai esplika lau diberas hu prueba na guaha kabales na relasion.

Sige amigu-hu Magoo mañoṅge punut para dulalag ñamu gi pa’gu lemmem tautau. Uttimoña mampos megai na asu na kontodu guiya dinilalag. Binechu!

Yangin ti preparau hau gi estrakadan fotmat na politika, maulegña silensiu un’ tunog ke un’ mana’ tunog. Muṅga mama’ hetmanun to-tut sa’ sosobla gi halom tanu’ ennau na paluma.

Ilegña ginen un’ kandidatu na mauleg kinempredeña pot asuntu siha. ‘Nai humuyuṅ kumuentos, gepañña ke kunehu sa’ sige man-galope gi haf’ attikulu mattu gi hinassoña. Tihu tuṅgu haf’ fino’ña lau i malate’ña ha’ gaige sikosña. Pindehu!

Ti malagu’ un’ prohimu sumaunau umadiṅgan fotmat gi asuntun linahyan siha pot ha hahassu kumandidatu. Yangin desde pa’gu para un’ fama’ fanihe, adahe na uttimoña mama’ hau sottau na galagun i seṅsoṅ ni tai amu?

Hulie’ un’ pairen galagu (Pit Bull) gi gima’ amigu-hu. Hu echa na mauleg guaddiaña. Ilegña, “Naña Iku sa’ megaiña ‘ste amiguña ke guahu”. Punu’!

hold jobs, some are actors, some were Presidents of America, and people with disabilities just want to be treated as equals.

Here are a couple of tips to keep in mind so that you can also use People First Language:

- Call people by their names if you know it.
- If you don’t know their names, always say “sir,” “ma’am,” “person,” “man,” “woman,” “student,” “individual,” or any other word that means person, before you use a disability.
- Always treat all people with dignity and respect.

For more on People First Language, please do not hesitate to con-tact NMPASI via telephone at 235-7273/4; TTY at 235-7278; fax at 235-7275; or online at www.nmpasi.org or by email at tomthorn-burgh@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time and now that you are aware, share with others in our community so that we can progress forward as an in-formed and educated community.

Thomas M. Thornburgh is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promises made, promises broken: An opportunity

I gave a short presentation the other week titled “Promises Made, Promises Broken” as part of the lecture series sponsored by the Hu-manities Council. I talked about the last-minute promises made by the White House envoy to our elected leaders in order to garner their support for the federal government’s plan to create the Mari-anas Trench National Marine Monument. The result of this desper-ate 11th-hour attempt to award a “Blue Legacy” for an outgoing President was that our elected leaders conditionally supported the monument. However, it only took 10 days after the monument was designated for the federal government to break the comanagement promise they made to the people of the Marianas.

After my Humanities presentation I was asked what could be done to help hold the federal government accountable for the prom-ises they made. Unfortunately, I did not have a good answer for the gentleman at that time.

The media coverage of this issue apparently irked a senior adviser of the Pew Environment Group. In his personal capacity, he posted (Aug. 21, 2013) his opinion on his blog site that pointedly blamed the CNMI government for the failure of the monument. Interest-ingly, the post was taken down as suddenly as it appeared. I thought it was an embarrassing effort to rewrite history and distance the Pew Environmental Group (aka Friends of the Monument) from the dis-appointments of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.

An opportunity will soon be presented where we can express our frustrations or praises directly to the federal management authori-ties for the monument. The occasion, according to the press release,

is the upcoming Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan’s Chamolinian conference room on Sept. 12, from 8:30am to 4pm. Additionally, the public has been invited to make comments from 4pm to 5pm that afternoon.

This particular opportunity does not come around often and I hope that everyone who has something to say about the monu-ment will give an hour of their time and participate in the public comment period. If you don’t wish to speak, please write down your comments and give them to someone who will be attend-ing the meeting, or to our local Monument Council representa-tives: Mr. Arnold Palacios, Mr. Benigno Sablan, or Mr. Frank Rabauliman. They can submit your comments on your behalf. All Monument Council members are fully aware of these prom-ises as they were discussed in former governor Benigno Fitial’s opening talk at the inaugural Monument Advisory Council meet-ing last year (June 2012).

Please keep in mind when giving statements that the people at the front table are not the ones who made the original promises. Nevertheless, they are the federal monument management authori-ties and as such, they need to hear our comments. Our concerns and frustrations with the monument will certainly not be addressed if we sit idly back, assume others will speak, and say nothing.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

Victim of secondhand smoke

Can someone please tell us what the laws says about smoking in public places? Can someone please tell us what are the victims’ rights in secondhand smoking?

I was at the Labor Day picnic and this person who was sitting with us at the picnic table started smoking and I told him that ciga-rette smoke harms my lungs. He just looked at me and said “So?,” as if he was telling me to move if I don’t like the smell of smoke. I also told him that there is a law prohibiting smoking in public places. He replied, “Try and fight me in court.”

Yes, he was there first, but the picnic table was put there for ev-eryone to sit on. There was no sign saying for smokers only.

So please can someone publish the law about smoking in public places? I am a concerned citizen for our children whose air these people are polluting. I attended the presentation about tobacco and how it can harm your lungs as a secondhand smoker. And today I am a victim of secondhand smoking. Sometimes I cannot breathe well due to smoke and also I get migraine headaches.

I know there is a law for this, and it needs to be out there for the people of Tinian to know because casinos and some restaurant still allow smoking and do not have a places for non-smokers.






So if there is anyone out there who knows about this law, please help me inform these abusers about our rights as victims of second-hand smoke.

Winnie M. Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 74
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 74
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80

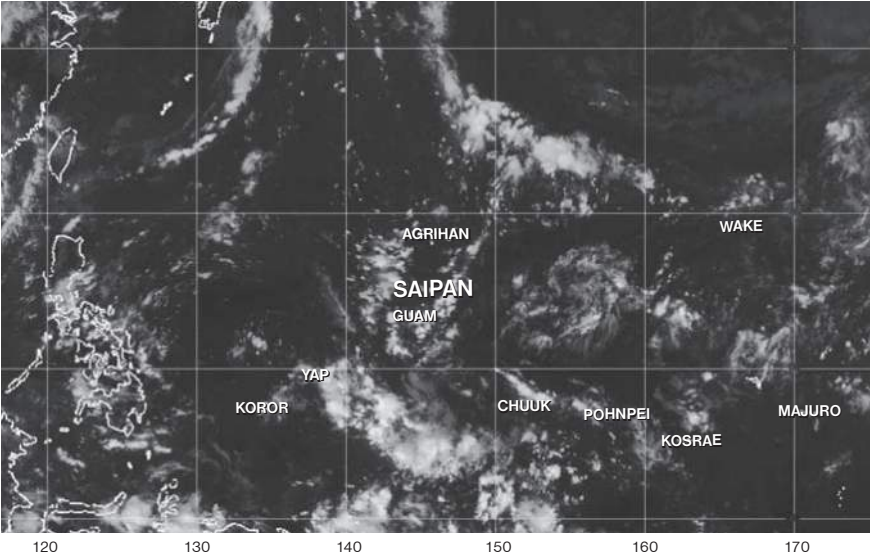
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 53
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 73
London	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 72
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 53
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 60
Pusan	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
Rome	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 67
Salem	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 59
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 63
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 58

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
7:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak monsoon trough runs southeastward from near the Philippines through 13N130E to a weak circulation centered west of Chuuk at 8N145E. It then meanders eastward as a near-equatorial trough through another circulation centered near Kosrae at 5N162E to beyond 180 At 9N. Converging winds near the first circulation are coupling with divergent winds associated with an upper-level trough in the vicinity to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 10N139E to 5N145E to 4N150E. Similar conditions are also found near the equator or south of a line from 2N140E to 4N154E. A surface trough reaches northwestward from north of Chuuk at 10N150E to northeast of Saipan at 16N147E. Isolated thunderstorms related to this feature are seen over the Marianas between 11N and 18N from 141E to 148E. An upper-level low is centered south of Minami Tori Shima at 23N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present over Minami Tori Shima within 80 miles of a line from 25N150E to 22N161E. Converging surface winds are producing scattered showers northeast of Wake Island or north of a line from 23N171E to 20N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:34 AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	7:16 AM	7:28 PM
Sunday	8:08 AM	8:12 PM
Monday	9:02 AM	8:58 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:50am 5:40am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:35am 9:25am Daily UA5074 11:20am 12:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5073 10:00am 10:50am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) OZ1077 4:50am 7:10am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:25pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5062 2:40am 3:15am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:10am 10:45am 6
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) DL583 5:50am 8:30am 2, 5, 6	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:45am 4:20am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 11:15am 11:50am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ1119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily OZ1087 10:00pm 2:25am+1 2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN DL582 8:30pm 1:00am+1 1, 4, 5
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ612 3:40am 7:20am Daily OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:05pm 1:55am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 8:50am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ611 9:10pm 2:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV) SYL9950 6:40pm 1:30am+1 7	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:05am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:05am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:50am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 10:05pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:35am 4:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM US5074/PR111 11:20am 4:35pm 1, 5, 7 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:10pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:30pm 10:45pm Daily via ICN	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM OZ604/745 3:30pm 10:40pm Daily via ICN	KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN SYL9949 12:45pm 5:20pm 7
	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN PR110/UA5072 7:55am 6:25pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 8:00am 12:50am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:45pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN UA184/5071 11:35pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:45pm 8:05am+1 1, 5 via GUM UA180/5071 10:50pm 8:05am+1 3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

In Nokia acquisition, Microsoft tries to catch up

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft's acquisition of Nokia's troubled smartphone business represents a daring \$7.2 billion attempt by the software giant and a once-influential cellphone maker to catch up with the mobile computing revolution that threatens to leave them in the technological dust.

The deal announced late Monday offers both companies a chance to make up for lost time with a strategy to meld their software and hardware into a cohesive package, like rival Apple has done. But there are plenty of reasons to question whether the copycat approach will pay off.

Unlike Apple, Microsoft Corp. makes most of its money from software for personal computers—a still-profitable franchise that has gradually been crumbling as smartphones and tablets supplant laptop and desktop machines. By some estimates, more than two-thirds of the computing devices being sold now are either smartphones or tablets, and there are few signs that trend will change during the next decade.

To complicate Microsoft's transition, the Redmond, Wash., company is being led by a lame duck. Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, who negotiated the Nokia deal, recently announced plans to retire within the next year in a tacit admission that the company needs a different leader to blaze new trails.

The managerial limbo raises even more doubts about whether Microsoft will be able to turn Nokia's phones into more effective weapons in a mobile-computing battle against devices powered by Google Inc.'s An-

NOKIA

Once the leader in cell phones, Nokia has agreed to sell its mobile phone business to Microsoft for \$7.2 billion (5.4 billion euros).

Vital statistics

Headquarters Espoo, Finland

President, CEO Stephen Elop; will become an executive vice president at Microsoft, which he left in 2000; on the short list of likely replacements for Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, who is retiring

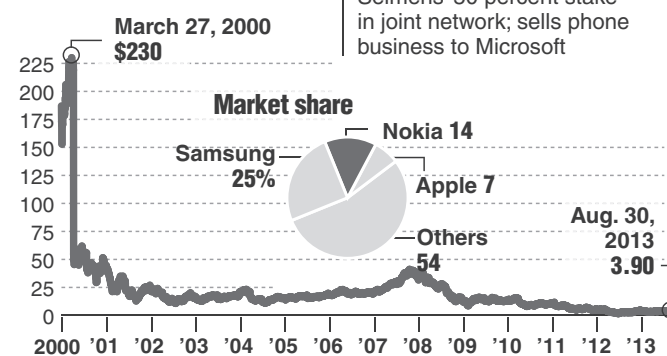
Revenue \$39.9 billion (2012)

Profit -\$4.1 billion (2012)

Employees About 98,000 worldwide; about 32,000 will transfer to Microsoft

Stock price

Daily since 2000



droid software and Apple Inc.'s iPhone and iPad.

"It's a three-horse race, and Microsoft knows it needs to come up with a more well-defined plan for mobile devices to catch up," said Darren Hayes, a computer science professor at Pace University in New York. "This was an essential acquisition for them."

The Nokia deal didn't go over well with investors who have already become weary of Microsoft's largely fruitless efforts to evolve into something more than a PC-dependent company.

Milestones

1871 Founded as a paper mill; over next 100 years, sells tires, boots, cables

1987 Launches first phone

1992 Sells nonmobile divisions; releases first digital GSM phone

2000 Stock price hits \$230 a share

2003 Introduces 1100 phone, which goes on to be the world's most popular

2011 Switches to Windows operating system

2013 Introduces Lumia 1020, with 41 megapixel camera; buys Seimens' 50 percent stake in joint network; sells phone business to Microsoft

Microsoft's stock shed \$1.52, or 4.6 percent, to close Tuesday at \$31.88. Nokia Corp.'s shares surged \$1.22, or 31 percent, to finish at \$5.12.

Nokia, a Finnish company, has seen its cellphone business unravel since Apple revolutionized the way people use handsets with the 2007 introduction of the iPhone. Nokia's problems grew worse in 2009 after Google began giving away its Android software to smartphone makers, spawning an array of sleek, low-cost alternatives.

plan, which has been supporting the economy by keeping interest rates down, but should do so slowly and carefully.

Already, it said, expectations that the U.S. would ease its monetary stimulus program have caused an increase in long-term market interest rates and started weighing on emerging economies. With unemployment in many parts of the world still high, businesses and consumers still need the low interest rates and easier access to loans that loose monetary policy provides, the report said. A sharp pullback could sink the recovery.

The OECD also warned that even though the economy of the countries that use the euro has come out of recession, the region is still fragile and could drag down global growth.

While many emerging economies are slowing, the organization said it thought the worst was over in China.

In an attempt to bounce back, Nokia lured Stephen Elop away from Microsoft to become CEO nearly three years ago. That move has not worked out well for Nokia's shareholders. Even with Tuesday's rally, Nokia's stock remains about 40 percent below where it stood when Elop became CEO.

Despite those losses, Elop has emerged as a candidate to replace Ballmer as Microsoft's CEO. Elop is stepping down as Nokia's CEO to re-join Microsoft, where he will oversee the company's devices division. Nokia board Chairman Risto Siilasmaa will serve as the company's interim CEO.

Elop decided to abandon Nokia's old operating system in 2011 in favor of Microsoft's Windows system for phones. That move established Nokia as Microsoft's most important partner in the mobile device market. About four out of every five phones running on Windows are made by Nokia, according to the latest information from research firm International Data Corp.

Nokia accounted for such of large chunk of Windows phones largely because other manufacturers such as LG Electronics, Samsung Electronics and HTC have either been scrapping the system or de-emphasizing its use in favor of Android, said Forrester Research analyst Charles Golvin.

Gimme a break: New Android system named 'KitKat'

NEW YORK (AP)—Gimme a break, Google. Break me off a piece of that Kit Kat bar.

The tech giant, which is known for nick-naming its Android mobile operating systems for smartphones and tablets after desserts, has for the first time chosen a brand-name candy for its 4.4 version that's expected to launch this fall: Kit Kat.

That's right, the new version shares a name with the chocolate candy bar with the well-known "Gimme a Break" jingle. Kit Kat packaging will show Android's green robot mascot breaking a Kit Kat bar.

Financial terms weren't disclosed for the sweet deal between Google and Hershey Co., which makes Kit Kat. But the deal shows that naming a stadium or sponsoring a TV show can be seen as old school. The latest marketing craze may be to slap a brand name on a tech product.

Google approached Hershey about six to nine months ago for permission to use the name, said Jennifer Podhajsky, vice president of U.S. chocolate at Hershey, which licenses the Kit Kat brand in the U.S.,

United offers big bonus to MileagePlus members

United Airlines has launched an innovative promotion offering MileagePlus members a bonus of up to 60 percent on award miles purchased between Sept. 3 and Sept. 5.

MileagePlus members can go to www.united.com/peoplepower to purchase miles, share the promotion through social media channels and view the progress of the bonus. Each participating member will receive a

minimum 30 percent bonus on award miles purchased through the promotion. The bonus will increase to as much as 60 percent if there are more than 1,500 qualifying transactions.

"This is a great chance for MileagePlus members to maximize their bonus opportunities by spreading the word to family and friends," said Praveen Sharma, United's vice president of loyalty and business development. "Through the promotion website, members can easily monitor bonus progress and share the offer through social media."

Promotion terms and conditions are available at www.united.com/peoplepower. Participating MileagePlus members must purchase at least 5,000 award miles.

MileagePlus is United's award-winning loyalty program. Members earn award miles by flying United, United Express, Star Alliance airlines or other airline partners, and by purchasing products or services from a wide variety of partners

worldwide. Members may then use those award miles for travel, hotel stays, car rentals and merchandise. United also offers MileagePlus Headliners, a unique program that lets members use their award miles to purchase theater and sporting event tickets and bid on a variety of amazing experiences. In addition, customers can visit the MileagePlus Digital Media Store. A first of its kind in the airline industry, the Digital Media Store gives MileagePlus members the opportunity to use miles for songs, albums, television shows and movies. (United)

As advanced economies grow, emerging ones struggle

PARIS (AP)—Developed economies are staging a comeback after years of lagging growth, but a slowdown in emerging countries will keep global growth low this year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Tuesday.

In its interim assessment, the organization was more upbeat than it has been in recent years, as debt and financial crises in Europe and the U.S. hammered growth.

Deputy chief economist Joergen Elmeskov said the gross domestic product of the seven leading economies, known as the G-7, has been improving since shrinking in the last quarter of 2012 and would grow at an annualized rate of about 2.5 percent in the second half of this year.

"It's moderate, but it's still a better outcome than what we were used to in the recent past," he told journalists as the report

was released.

The report raised its estimates for growth in the two largest economies that use the euro: It predicted Germany would grow 0.7 percent this year, up from May's prediction of 0.4 percent. France should see 0.3 percent growth, as opposed to the contraction expected in May.

But it lowered its forecast for the U.S. to 1.7 percent from its estimate in May of 1.9 percent.

China, the biggest of the emerging economies, was seen growing 7.4 percent, down from a previous forecast of 7.8 percent. The organization called on central banks to continue with the loose monetary policies that have been credited with helping economies rebound.

"Monetary policy clearly needs to remain strongly expansionary," especially in Europe and Japan, said Elmeskov. He added that the United States can start winding down its bond-buying



This undated product image provided by The Hershey Company shows the new Kit Kat label for The Hershey Company featuring Android's green robot mascot breaking a Kit Kat.

while Nestle owns the worldwide brand.

Podhajsky said that Kit Kat's jingle is a good fit for people taking a break to look at their smartphones or tablets. She added that the deal appeals to Hershey because Android hits the sweet spot of Kit Kat eaters, who are typically between the ages of 18 and 34. "Kit Kat consumers are young, vibrant consumers of candy and chocolate bars, and that's a nice match with Android," Podhajsky said.

The Kit Kat name was unexpected since tech pundits have

speculated for months that the next operating system would be called Key Lime Pie. Marc Vanlerberghe, director of Android Marketing, said the name was chosen because Kit Kat bars have been a "favorite go-to snack among the team since the early days of Android."

The Android 4.4 Kit Kat system is expected to launch in October. The software is now running on more than 750 million smartphones and tablets throughout the world, making it the world's most widely used mobile operating system.



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Vacuum
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8pc Hanger
\$1.95



Essential Home
Classic Pillow
Standard
\$4.95



Hershey's
Lionel Train
Play Set
\$65.95



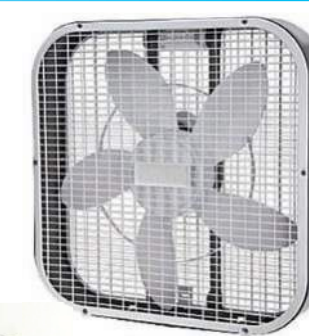
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World

Boehner's aboard: Obama gains Syria-strike support

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama gained ground Tuesday in his drive for congressional backing of a military strike against Syria, winning critical support from House Speaker John Boehner while key Senate Democrats and Republicans agreed to back a no-combat-troops-on-the-ground action in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack.

Officials said the emerging Senate measure would receive a vote Wednesday in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Approval is likely.

"You're probably going to win" Congress' backing, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, a conservative and likely opponent of the measure, conceded in a late-afternoon exchange with Secretary of State John Kerry.

The leader of House Republicans, Boehner emerged from a meeting at the White House and said the United States has "enemies around the world that need to understand that we're not going to tolerate this type of behavior. We also have allies around the



President Barack Obama, flanked by House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, left, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks to media in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013, before a meeting with members of Congress to discuss the situation in Syria.

world and allies in the region who also need to know that America will be there and stand up when it's necessary."

Boehner spoke as lawmakers in both parties called for chang-

es to the president's requested legislation, insisting it be rewritten to restrict the type and duration of any military action.

In the Senate, the compromise was the work of Sens. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., and Bob Corker, R-Tenn., among others. They are the chairman and senior Republican, respectively, on the Foreign Relations Committee, which held a lengthy hearing during the day on Obama's request for congressional legislation in support of the military reprisal he wants.

The measure would set a time limit of 60 days and says the president could extend that for 30 days more unless Congress votes otherwise.

The measure also bars the use of U.S. ground troops for "combat operations."

The White House had no immediate reaction to the Senate measure, although Kerry, testifying earlier before the committee, signaled that the troop restriction was acceptable to the administration. "There's no problem in our having the

Poll: U.S. stay out of Syria

A new poll shows opposition to U.S. missile strikes against the Syrian government for its alleged use of chemical weapons on its people.

■ Support ■ Oppose

• U.S. missile strikes against Syrian government

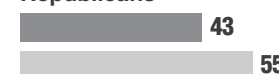
All adults



Democrats



Republicans



Independents



• If U.S. and its allies, such as U.K. and France, launch missiles against Syria



• If U.S. and its allies supply weapons to Syrian rebels



Source: Washington Post-ABC poll of 1,012 adults, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2013; margin of error: +/- 3.5 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

language that has zero capacity for American troops on the ground," he said.

"President Obama is not asking America to go to war," Kerry said in a strongly worded opening statement. He added, "This is not the time for armchair isolationism. This is not the time to be spectators to slaughter."

Obama said earlier in the day he was open to revisions in the relatively broad request the White House made over the weekend. He expressed confidence Congress would respond to his call for support and said Assad's action "poses a serious national security threat to the United States and to the region."

The administration says 1,429 died from the attack on Aug. 21 in a Damascus suburb. Casualty estimates by other groups are far lower, and Assad's government blames the episode on rebels who have been seeking to overthrow his government in a civil war that began over two years ago. A United Nations inspection team is awaiting lab results on tissue and soil samples it collected while in the country before completing a closely watched report.

The president met top lawmakers at the White House before embarking on an overseas trip to Sweden and Russia, leaving the principal lobbying at home for the next few days to Vice President Joe Biden and other members of his administration.

Nyad: Maturity helped me achieve record swim

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—The clocks Diana Nyad uses to time her training swims show that she's a slower swimmer than she used to be. That's only natural: At age 64, she acknowledges she is no longer the "thoroughbred stallion" she was "back in the day."

And yet, the endurance athlete says she felt stronger than ever when she completed her successful effort to become the first person to swim 110 miles from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage.

"Now I'm more like a Clydesdale: I'm a little thicker and stronger—literally stronger, I can lift more weights," Nyad told The Associated Press in a one-on-one interview Tuesday, a day after she finished her 53-hour, record-setting swim.

"I feel like I could walk through a brick wall. ... I think I'm truly dead center in the prime of my life at 64."

Nyad isn't alone among aging athletes who are dominating their sports.

Earlier this year, 48-year-old Bernard Hopkins became the oldest boxer to win a major title, scoring a 12-round unanimous decision over

Tavoris Cloud to claim the IBF light heavyweight championship.

Tennis player Martina Navratilova played in the mixed doubles competition at Wimbledon in her late 40s, and hockey legend Gordie Howe played in the NHL in his 50s.

Thousands of U.S. athletes, including 60-year-old Kay Glynn, also compete during the Senior Olympics.

Glynn, of Hastings, Iowa, has won six gold medals in pole vaulting at the Senior Olympics and set a new pole vaulting world record for her age in the 2011 National Senior Games.

Older athletes tend to find more success in endurance events than power events such as sprinting and other sports that rely on "fast-twitch" muscle fibers, which are more difficult to preserve later in life, noted Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, a physiologist at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

But just because Nyad was swimming rather than pounding her joints against the concrete doesn't mean she didn't achieve a remarkable feat, Chodzko-Zajko said.



Ohio man who held 3 women captive hangs himself

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The man who held three women captive in his home for nearly a decade before one escaped has been found dead and is believed to have committed suicide, a prison official said.

Ariel Castro, 53, was found hanging in

his cell around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient,

a community located south of Columbus in central Ohio, JoEllen Smith, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction spokesman, said early Wednesday.

Prison medical



Castro

staff performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation before Castro was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

He was in protective custody because of the notoriety of his case, meaning he was checked every 30 minutes, but was not on suicide watch, Smith said.

Messages were left for Castro's attorneys at their offices and were not immediately returned.

The three women disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004, when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old. They escaped May 6, when one of the women broke part of a door and yelled to neighbors for help. Castro was arrested that evening.

Castro was sentenced Aug. 1 to life in prison plus 1,000 years on his guilty plea to 937 counts including kidnapping and rape.

Texas Guard refuses to process same-sex benefits

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The Texas National Guard refused to process requests from same-sex couples for benefits on Tuesday despite a Pentagon directive to do so, while Mississippi won't issue applications from state-owned offices. Both states cited their respective bans on gay marriage.

Tuesday was the first working day that gays in the military could apply for benefits after the Pentagon announced it would recognize same-sex marriages. The Department of Defense had announced that it would recognize same-sex marriages performed in states where they are legal following the U.S. Supreme Court decision that threw out parts of the

Defense of Marriage Act.

Texas and Mississippi appeared to be the only two states limiting how and where same-sex spouses of National Guard members could register for identification cards and benefits, according to an Associated Press tally. Officials in 13 other states that also ban gay marriage—including Arizona, Oklahoma, Florida, Michigan and Georgia—said Tuesday that they will follow federal law and process all couples applying for benefits the same.

Maj. Gen. John Nichols, the commanding general of Texas Military Forces, wrote to service members in a letter obtained by the AP that because the Texas Constitution defines

marriage as between a man and a woman, his state agency couldn't process applications from gay and lesbian couples. But he said the Texas National Guard, Texas Air Guard and Texas State Guard would not deny anyone benefits.

Nichols wrote that his agency, which oversees Texas' National Guard units, "remains committed to ensuring its military personnel and their families receive the benefits to which they are entitled. As such, we encourage anyone affected by this issue to enroll for benefits at a federal installation." He then listed 22 bases operated by the Department of Defense in Texas where service members could enroll their families.

A spokesman for Texas Gov.

Rick Perry said the Texas Military Forces, as a state agency, must obey state law.

Mississippi National Guard spokesman Tim Powell said the main factor in determining where same-sex spouses could apply for benefits came down to the property owner. Powell said only National Guard offices on federal property would accept the applications in Mississippi, which also constitutionally bans gay marriage.

"It is our intent to provide benefits and services to our men and women in uniform and at the same time abide by federal and state statutes," Powell said.

Once the same-sex spouse is approved and obtains an ID, they may go to any base for services.

Asia

Japan to fund ice wall to contain reactor leaks

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese government announced Tuesday that it will spend \$470 million on a subterranean ice wall and other steps in a desperate bid to stop leaks of radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant after repeated failures by the plant's operator.

The decision is widely seen as an attempt to show that the nuclear accident won't be a safety concern just days before the International Olympic Committee chooses among Tokyo, Istanbul and Madrid as the host of the 2020 Olympics.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi plant has been leaking hundreds of tons of contaminated underground water into the sea since shortly after a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged the complex. Several leaks from tanks storing radioactive water in recent weeks have heightened the sense of crisis that the plant's owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., isn't able to contain the problem.

"Instead of leaving this up to TEPCO, the government will step forward and take charge," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said after adopting the outline. "The world is watching if we can properly handle the contaminated water but also the entire decommissioning of the plant."

The government plans to spend an estimated 47 billion yen (\$470 million) through the end of March 2015 on two projects—32 billion yen (\$320 million) on the ice wall and 15 billion yen (\$150 million) on an upgraded water treatment unit that is supposed to remove all radioactive elements except water-soluble tritium—according to energy agency official

Tatsuya Shinkawa.

The government, however, is not paying for urgently needed water tanks and other equipment that TEPCO is using to contain leaks. Shinkawa said the funding is limited to "technologically challenging projects" but the government is open to additional help when needed.

The ice wall would freeze the ground to a depth of up to 30 meters (100 feet) through a system of pipes carrying a coolant as cold as minus 40 degrees Celsius (minus 40 Fahrenheit). That would block contaminated water from escaping from the facility's immediate surroundings, as well as keep under-

ground water from entering the reactor and turbine buildings, where much of the radioactive water has collected.

The project, which TEPCO and the government proposed in May, is being tested for feasibility by Japanese construction giant Kajima Corp. and is set for completion by March 2015.

Similar methods have been used to block water from parts of tunnels and subways, but building a 1.4-kilometer (0.9-mile) wall that surrounds four reactor buildings and their related facilities is unprecedented.

An underground ice wall has been used to isolate radioactive waste at the U.S. Department of

Energy's former site of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee that produced plutonium, but only for six years, according to the MIT Technology Review magazine.

Some experts are still skeptical about the technology and say the running costs would be a huge burden.

Rodman in North Korea to visit his 'friend' Kim



Former NBA star Dennis Rodman, center, speaks to the media at the departure hall of Beijing International Capital Airport in Beijing Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013.

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Former NBA star Dennis Rodman is in North Korea with plans to hang out with authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un, have a good time and maybe

bridge some cultural gaps—but not be a diplomat.

Rodman was greeted at Pyongyang's airport Tuesday by Son Kwang Ho, vice-chairman of North Korea's Olym-

pic Committee, just days after Pyongyang rejected a visit by a U.S. envoy who had hoped to bring home Kenneth Bae, an American missionary jailed there. The North abruptly called off the official visit because it said the U.S. had ruined the atmosphere for talks by holding a drill over South Korea with nuclear-capable B-52 bombers.

Rodman said the purpose

of his visit was to display his friendship for Kim and North Korea and to "show people around the world that we as Americans can actually get along with North Korea."

Speaking to reporters in Beijing ahead of his flight to Pyongyang—his second trip to the North—Rodman declined to say whether he would seek Bae's release. Bae's health is poor, and he was recently

transferred to a hospital.

"I just want to meet my friend Kim, the marshal, and start a basketball league over there or something like that," said Rodman, wearing rings through his lower lip and each nostril. "I have not been promised anything. I am just going there as a friendly gesture."

Bae was arrested in November and sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for what Pyongyang described as hostile acts against the state. Rodman once asked on his Twitter account for Kim to "do me a solid" and release Bae. Kim has the power to grant special pardons under the North's constitution.

"I'm not there to be a diplomat. I'm there to go there and just have a good time, sit with (Kim) and his family, and that's pretty much it," Rodman said, adding that he planned to see Kim "pretty soon," perhaps later Tuesday or Wednesday. Rodman is being hosted in North Korea by the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sport, which has not confirmed if or when Rodman will meet Kim Jong Un.

Meetings between senior North Korean officials and foreigners are normally not officially confirmed or announced in advance.

Rodman first met Kim—a die-hard basketball fan—during a visit in February to promote the sport and make a film. U.S. officials frowned on the trip for giving the young leader a propaganda boost.

China police say aunt likely gouged out boy's eyes

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities suspect that the woman who gouged out a 6-year-old boy's eyes was his aunt who later killed herself, state media said Wednesday, adding a surprising twist to a gruesome case with conflicting details.

Police in the city of Linfen in northern Shanxi province have identified the boy's aunt Zhang Huiying as a suspect because the boy's blood was found on her clothes, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Six days after the boy was attacked, Zhang killed herself by jumping into a well.

Initial reports said the boy, Gua Bin, was lured by an unidentified woman with a strange accent into a field on Aug. 24 where she used an unspecified tool to gouge out his eyes.

Xinhua did not cite a possible motive for the aunt to attack the boy. The police finding seemed to conflict with

the family's initial comments on the boy's assailant, which cited him as saying that the woman spoke with an accent from outside the area and had hair that was dyed blonde.

One of the case investigators reached by phone, a police officer in Fenxi county surnamed Liu, referred only to the Xinhua report and refused to answer further questions, saying he was not authorized to speak to the media. Calls to the city and county's police bureaus' propaganda departments rang unanswered. Guo's mother's mobile phone also rang unanswered.

State media previously had raised the possibility that the boy's corneas were taken for sale because of a donor shortage in China, but police said the boy's eyeballs were found at the scene, and that the corneas hadn't been removed. At the time, though, Guo's father told The Associated Press the

family had not actually seen the eyeballs.

The attack horrified the Chinese public, and added to outrage over violence against children in the wake of a scandal earlier in the year over a spate of cases of school teachers sexually abusing young girls.

Chinese Internet users expressed dismay as they circulated reports of the attack on the boy and links to footage showing him writhing in pain on a hospital trolley with bandages around his head, and his parents, both farmers, crying.

The Yanzhao Metropolis Daily quoted Guo's mother as saying the boy's account of the attack had varied from moment to moment.

"The child would say one thing at first and then another thing later. I asked him later, did she speak the way I do, and he said yes," the report quoted her as saying.

India counts 1 woman killed every hour over dowry

NEW DELHI (AP)—One woman dies every hour in India because of dowry-related crimes, indicating that the country's economic boom has made demands for dowries even more persistent, women's rights activists said.

The National Crime Records Bureau says 8,233 women were killed across India last year because of disputes over dowry payments given by the bride's family to the groom or his family at the time of marriage.

The conviction rate in dowry-related crimes remained a low 32 percent, according to statistics the bureau published last week.

Indian law prohibits the giv-

ing or receiving of a dowry, but the centuries-old social custom persists.

Dowry demands often continue for years after the wedding. Each year, thousands of young Indian women are doused with gasoline and burned to death because the groom or his family felt the dowry was inadequate.

Women's rights activists and police said that loopholes in dowry prevention laws, delays in prosecution and low conviction rates have led to a steady rise in dowry-related crimes.

Dowry demands have become even more insistent and expensive following India's economic boom, Ranjana Kumari, a women's rights activist,

said Tuesday.

She blamed a growing culture of greed as India opens its economy to foreign goods that the younger generation cannot afford but badly want.

"Marriages have become commercialized. It's like a business proposition where the groom and his family make exorbitant demands. And the wealthier the family, the more outrageous the demands," Kumari said.

Suman Nalwa, a senior New Delhi police officer dealing with crimes against women, said dowry practices extended to all classes in society. "Even highly educated people don't say no to dowry," she said.

World

Russia's Putin warns West on Syria action

Military forces encircle Syria

The U.S. and France have ships, planes and other assets in the region if a response to the Aug. 21 alleged chemical weapons attack by Syrian forces on civilians near Damascus is called for.

Allied forces in region U.S. and allied military assets



United States

1. Five destroyers, with cruise missiles; USS Barry, USS Gravelly, USS Mahan, USS Ramage, USS Stout*

Carrier groups

2. USS Nimitz
3. USS Harry S. Truman

France

11. Carrier at Toulon
12. Rafale and Mirage strike aircraft at Al-Dhafra airbase, U.A.E.

Airbases; F-15 and F-16 strike aircraft

4. Based at Incirlik and 5. Ismir, Turkey; 6. Mafrak, Jordan

Military bases

7. Bahrain, 8. Qatar, 9. U.A.E.

10. Patriot missiles in Jordan

*USS Stout expected to relieve one destroyer

NATO

13. Patriot missiles based in Gaziantep, Turkey

Tomahawk cruise missile

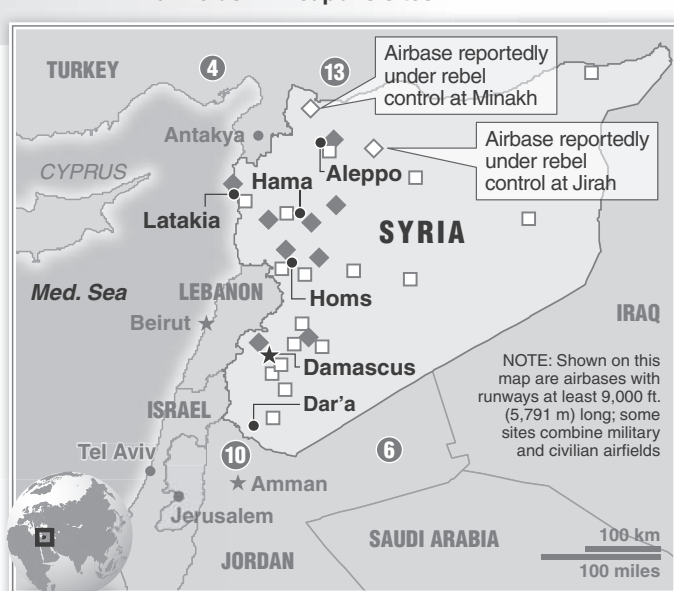
• Submarine- or ship-launched
• Used against communications, air defense sites

Block IV version



• Range 1,000 mi. (1,600 km)
• Payload 1,000 lb. (450 kg) load of munitions

Possible targets



NOTE: On Aug. 29, British Parliament voted against participating in military action

Source: Reuters, BBC, GlobalSecurity.org, Foreign Policy, Encyclopedia Britannica, CIA World Factbook, Brookings Institution, ESRI

Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

NOVO-OGARYOVO, Russia (AP)—President Vladimir Putin warned the West against taking one-sided action in Syria but also said Russia “doesn’t exclude” supporting a U.N. resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Damascus used poison gas on its own people.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press and Russia’s state Channel 1 television, Putin said Moscow has provided some components of the S-300 air defense missile system to Syria but has frozen further shipments. He suggested that Russia may sell the potent missile systems elsewhere if Western nations attack Syria without U.N. Security Council backing.

The interview Tuesday night at Putin’s country residence outside the Russian capital was the only one he granted prior to the summit of G-20 nations in St. Petersburg, which opens Thursday. The summit was supposed to concentrate on the global economy but now looks likely to be dominated by the international crisis over allegations that the Syrian government used chemical weapons in the country’s civil war.

Putin said he felt sorry that President Barack Obama canceled a one-on-one meeting in Moscow that was supposed to have happened before the summit. But he expressed hope the two would have serious discussions about Syria and other issues in St. Petersburg.

“President Obama hasn’t been elected by the American people in order to be pleasant to Russia. And your humble servant hasn’t been elected by the people of Russia to be pleasant to someone either,” he said of their relationship.

“We work, we argue about some issues. We are human. Sometimes one of us gets

vexed. But I would like to repeat once again that global mutual interests form a good basis for finding a joint solution to our problems,” Putin said.

He also denied that Russia has anti-gay policies—an issue that has threatened to embarrass the country as it prepares to host the Winter Olympics in February.

The Russian leader, a year into his third term as president, appeared to go out of his way to be conciliatory amid a growing chill in U.S.-Russian relations. The two countries have sparred over Syria, the Edward Snowden affair, Russia’s treatment of its opposition and the diminishing scope

in Russia for civil society groups that receive funding from the West.

Putin said it was “ludicrous” that the government of President Bashar Assad—a staunch ally of Russia—would use chemical weapons at a time when it was holding sway against the rebels.

“From our viewpoint, it seems absolutely absurd that the armed forces, the regular armed forces, which are on the offensive today and in some areas have encircled the so-called rebels and are finishing them off, that in these conditions they would start using forbidden chemical weapons while realizing quite well that it could serve as a pretext for applying sanctions against them, including the use of force,” he said.

The Obama administration says 1,429 people died in the Aug. 21 attack in a Damascus suburb. Casualty estimates by other groups are far lower, and Assad’s government blames the episode on rebels trying to overthrow him. A U.N. inspection team is awaiting lab results on tissue and soil samples it collected while in Syria before completing a report.

“If there are data that the chemical weapons have been used, and used specifically by the regular army, this evidence should be submitted to the U.N. Security Council,” added Putin, a former officer in the Soviet KGB. “And it ought to be convincing. It shouldn’t be based on some rumors and information obtained by special services through some kind of eavesdropping, some conversations and things like that.”

He noted that even in the U.S., “there are experts who be-

lieve that the evidence presented by the administration doesn’t look convincing, and they don’t exclude the possibility that the opposition conducted a premeditated provocative action trying to give their sponsors a pretext for military intervention.”

He compared the evidence presented by Washington to false data used by the Bush administration about weapons of mass destruction to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

“All these arguments turned out to be untenable, but they were used to launch a military action, which many in the U.S. called a mistake. Did we forget about that?” Putin said.

Syria is said to be hiding weapons, moving troops

BEIRUT (AP)—As the Obama administration tries to prod Congress into backing armed action against Syria, the regime in Damascus is hiding military hardware and shifting troops out of bases into civilian areas.

Politically, President Bashar Assad has gone on the offensive, warning in a rare interview with Western media that any military action against Syria could spark a regional war.

If the U.S. undertakes missile strikes, Assad’s reaction could have a major effect on the trajectory of Syria’s civil war. Neighboring countries could get dragged into a wider conflict, or it could be back to business as usual for a crisis that has claimed the lives of more than 100,000 people over 2 1/2 years.

The main Western-backed opposition group says that during the buildup last week to what seemed like an imminent U.S. attack, the army moved troops as well as rocket launchers, artillery and other heavy weapons into residential neighborhoods in cities nationwide. Three Damascus residents, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, confirmed such movements.

One man said two members of the elite Republican Guards broke into an empty house he owns and showed him an official document stating they were authorized to do so because Syria is at war. A woman in another area said soldiers moved into a school next to her house.

A U.S. official confirmed there are indications that the Syrian regime is taking steps to move some of its military equipment and bolster protection for defense facilities.

The official, who was not authorized to discuss intelligence matters and spoke on condition of anonymity, said that at this point, the U.S. has the information it needs to maintain a good handle on what the regime is doing to prepare.

The trend inside Syria is likely to continue in the coming days now that the regime has won a reprieve with President Barack Obama’s decision to seek congressional approval for military action.

“The Syrian regime knows there are 30-40 potential targets for U.S. airstrikes, and they have had ample time to prepare,” said Hisham Jaber, a retired Lebanese army general and director of the Middle East Center for Studies and Political Research in Beirut. “Half of them, if not more, have been evacuated, moved or camouflaged. This is the natural thing to do.”

Obama said last week that he believes the U.S. should strike Syria for what the administration says was a deadly chemical weapons attack by Assad’s forces on rebel-held suburbs of Damascus. The administration has stressed, however, that any operation would be limited and not aimed at tipping the balance of power in Syria’s civil war.

In an interview published Monday with the French newspaper Le Figaro, Assad refused to say how Syria would respond to Western strikes, but warned that “the risk of a regional war exists.”

The regime has a range of options if the U.S. does bomb. It could retaliate with rockets against U.S. allies in the region. It could unleash allies like Hezbollah against Western targets abroad. Or it could do nothing—and score propaganda points by portraying itself as victim of U.S. aggression.

The regime’s choice, analysts say, will probably depend on the magnitude of the American military action: The bigger and more sustained the strikes, the more likely the government in Damascus will feel compelled to respond.

If Washington follows through with calibrated strikes, analysts say, Assad may reach for a political card, not a military one.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico bus drivers idle after ‘revenge’ killings

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Half of the drivers who work a bus route on which two colleagues were shot to death last week, possibly by a woman seeking revenge for purported sexual abuse of female passengers, didn’t show up for their jobs Tuesday. Only 10 of the 20 drivers assigned to the 4A bus route in this border city took the wheel, “because they are afraid,” a dispatcher said. “There were a lot fewer passengers, too,” said the dispatcher, who refused to be quoted by name out of fear of being targeted. “Everyone is afraid something could happen,” he added. Officials said plainclothes police officers were aboard some buses and conducting weapons searches to prevent further killings.

Wave of bombings, attacks in Iraq kill at least 67

BAGHDAD (AP)—A series of coordinated evening blasts in Baghdad and other violence killed at least 67 people in Iraq on Tuesday, officials said, the latest in a months-long surge of bloodshed that Iraqi security forces are struggling to contain. Many of those killed were caught up in a string of car bombings that tore through the

Iraqi capital early in the evening as residents were out shopping or heading to dinner. Those blasts struck 11 different neighborhoods and claimed more than 50 lives in a span of less than two hours. The evening’s deadliest attack happened when two car bombs exploded near restaurants and shops Baghdad’s northeastern suburb of Husseinayah, a Shiite area, killing nine people and wounding 32.

Sweden investigates lost WikiLeaks luggage

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Swedish police opened an investigation Tuesday after WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange urged them to find out what happened to a suitcase he suspects was stolen from him in 2010 by intelligence agents as he traveled from Sweden to Germany. The suitcase contained three laptops that had WikiLeaks materials, including evidence of a “war crime” allegedly committed by U.S. troops in Afghanistan, according to an affidavit that Assange’s lawyer filed along with a criminal complaint to police at Stockholm’s Arlanda Airport. In the affidavit, Assange suggested his bag may have been illegally seized “as part of an intelligence operation with the purpose of gathering information about me.”

Environment

Will the Sierra forests recover?

By **MARK GROSSI**
THE FRESNO BEE

FRESNO, Calif.—California's biggest wildfire was just a 40-acre canyon blaze west of Yosemite National Park on Aug. 17. In just a few days, the Rim fire grew into a monster, menacing foothill communities and incinerating landscape with 200-foot flames burning at 1,200 degrees.

Motorists 100 miles away near Sacramento saw ash-filled pyrocumulus clouds billowing thousands of feet high, as if a volcano had erupted. The still-growing Rim fire footprint is now more than two-thirds the size of Los Angeles and burning into state history—one of the five biggest fires on record.

What happened to that 40-acre fire at the Rim of the World, a peaceful overlook at the Tuolumne River canyon in the Stanislaus National Forest?

Federal scientists say the fire hit overdrive when it moved from the scar of an old fire into overgrown forest that had not burned in a century. The thick forest made the Rim fire historic.

By Saturday, it had expanded to 219,277 acres. Nearly 5,000 people still were involved in fighting the fire, which was 35 percent contained, at a cost of \$54.8 million. It will be weeks before it is contained.

Experts already are saying the ecosystem damage is huge. In a terrifying whoosh, the Rim fire changed the forest for at least a generation and maybe a lot longer.

As the climate changes and more fire takes place, there is a chance big fire-resistant trees might not recover. Fields of flammable shrubs might be all that is left in some places, fire ecologists say.

Further, they say that much of the Sierra's 25 million acres is overgrown and primed for these kinds of large, hot wildfires.

Someday, many parts of the Sierra may

resemble Southern California mountains where evergreen shrublands dominate the landscape, said Hugh Safford, regional ecologist for the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region and research associate at the University of California, Davis.

"If you've seen those mountains, you know how different they are from the Sierra," he said. "That's the kind of change I'm talking about."

The key is the increase of big fires, which has been documented as the climate has warmed in the last two decades, ecologists said. These blazes quickly torch acres of vegetation—from the top of centuries-old pine and fir trees to the grasses, forbs and sedges below.

"A fire like this will kill a third to half of the forest it burns through," said Malcolm North, research scientist for the U.S. Forest Service and forest ecology professor at UC Davis. "It is devastating."

One reason the Sierra's forests became overgrown was a flawed federal policy. Many decades ago before fire's role was understood, federal authorities snuffed out all fires. The practice interrupted the frequent, low-intensity fires that kept the forest healthy in the past.

Fire suppression must continue to protect communities such as Groveland in the Rim fire, but there are some hard facts to face, North said.

Federal land managers are trying to thin the forest with controlled fires as well as cutting and clearing heavily forested areas. But there's simply too much forest that needs thinning.

"We've gotten ourselves in a really big hole," he said. "We're not going to dig our way out the way we're doing it now."

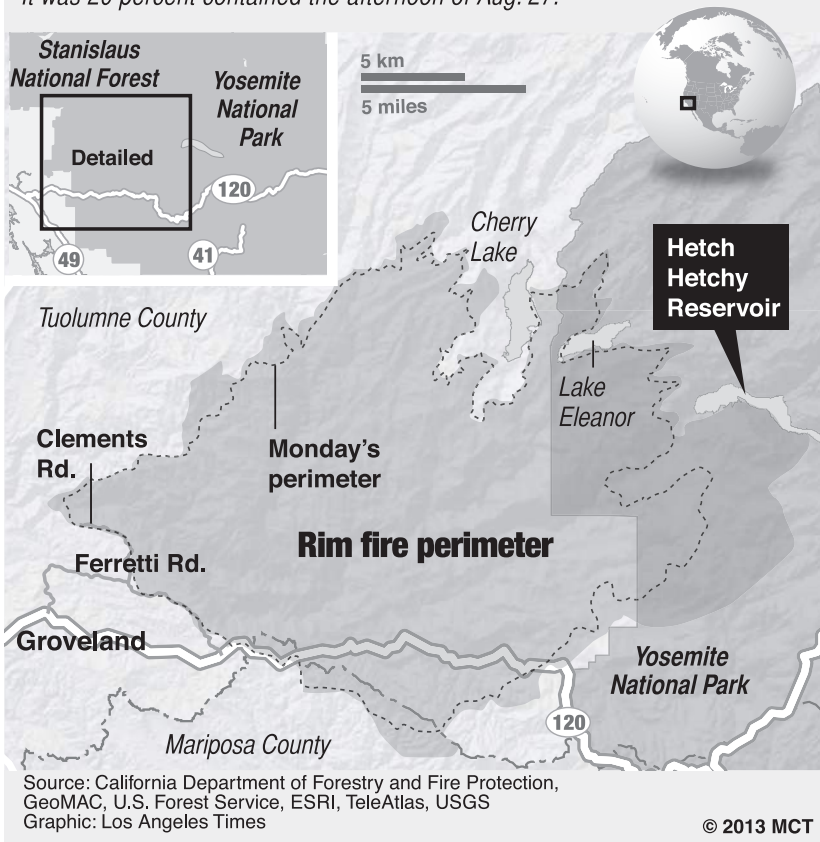
The problem now is compounded by waves of nitrogen from some of the nation's worst ozone air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. It amounts to a mega-dose of fertilizer wafting into the Sierra's western slope.



In this Friday, Aug. 30, 2013 photo provided by the U.S. Forest Service, a member of the Bureau of Land Management Silver State Hotshot crew from Elko, Nevada, stands by a burn operation on the southern flank of the Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park in California.

Rim fire in Yosemite

The Rim fire has now burned at least 280 sq. mi. (725 sq. km) in the Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park. It was 20 percent contained the afternoon of Aug. 27.



The situation makes fire authorities nervous every summer, particularly this year after two dry winters. The massive Rim fire probably will burn until storms hit in autumn.

Next year, kayakers will see the devastation as they glide down the Tuolumne, said Safford. He said scientists won't know the extent of the damage until they investigate after the smoke clears, but there is little doubt about what they will find.

"The Tuolumne River canyon will be fundamentally different over the next 50 years," Safford said.

The fire recovery will be dominated by shrub species, such as chaparral, which is highly flammable, he said. More chaparral also will be apparent in Yosemite where the fire has burned more than 40,000 acres.

Will the trees come back at some point? They should eventually return,

said Yosemite-area scientist Jan van Wagtenonk, research forester emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey's Western Ecological Center.

"But if another fire burns through, it goes right back to chaparral," he said. "That has happened already in some places."

No one knows for sure what will happen after the Rim fire and throughout the Sierra. Fire recovery is sometimes debated passionately among the experts. People on social media like to talk about it, too.

During the Rim fire, one conversation on Twitter featured the strong recovery of Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas from the 1.2 million-acre fire in 1988. If Yellowstone recovered, why wouldn't the Stanislaus National Forest?

Safford said it is a mistake to compare the Stanislaus in the Sierra Nevada to Yellowstone in the Rocky Mountains.

Yellowstone's lodgepole pine forest developed in much wetter conditions—there are storms year-round, he said.

During droughts in the Rockies, it is natural to have fires "the size of Rhode Island" every 100 to 200 years, he said. In fact, the lodgepole pine cones don't open and spread their seeds until a large, destructive fire wipes out trees.

In contrast, Sierra forests developed in a Mediterranean climate, which means dry months every year. The ponderosa and Jeffrey pine adapted to a more open forest with smaller, frequent fires during dry months in the Sierra.

But on the whole, experts say, the Sierra is far less open and far more prone to larger, hotter fires these days.

Safford said, "Add up the changes happening here. It looks like you don't get some forests back."

Experts already are saying the ecosystem damage is huge.

Life & Style

‘American Idol’ taps Lopez, Connick as judges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“American Idol” is betting that a judges’ remix with Jennifer Lopez, Harry Connick Jr. and Keith Urban will fare better with viewers than bickering divas Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj did last season.

The rumored addition of Lopez and Connick as judges for season 13 was announced Tuesday by Fox. They’ll join Urban to make up the talent show’s first panel consisting solely of singers—a la NBC’s successful 2011 upstart “The Voice.”

Pop star and actress Lopez will be back on “American Idol” after a two-season run as judge in 2011 and 2012 that was a boon for the show and her career. Connick, a respected jazz singer and musician, proved adept as a mentor in several “Idol”

appearances.

Urban’s return to the contest was announced last month by Fox Chairman Kevin Reilly, who said the singer didn’t get a chance to show his personality in his first turn as a judge. Urban appeared overwhelmed last season by the Carey-Minaj crossfire that drew complaints from some viewers.

“I think this season of ‘Idol’ is gonna be a blast,” Urban said in a statement Tuesday. “New team, new energy and a whole



Lopez

new field of artists to be discovered and given a chance!”

Fox also announced that original judge Randy Jackson, who exited along with Carey and Minaj at the end of last season, will be back in a new role as in-house mentor to the contestants. Ryan Seacrest, also part of “Idol” from the start, will again host.

“Surprise, surprise! I am so happy to be back as part of this amazing show that start-

ed it all,” said Jackson. “The original talent show is back with a vengeance and ready to discover the best talent in America.”

Record executive Jimmy Iovine had served as mentor in recent seasons. Fox said that Universal Music Group’s Interscope Records, under Iovine’s direction as chairman, will continue to release “Idol” winner and contestant music.

Although judges have been a part of the show’s entertainment formula since the early antics of Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul,

“Idol” also won viewers by discovering future stars including Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood and Jennifer Hudson. But recent winners haven’t caught similar fire as recording artists.

Seacrest, also set to host NBC’s new “The Million Second Quiz,” said that early “Idol” auditions have cemented his belief “that a new superstar is within our sights.”

Tryouts are ahead in Atlanta; Austin, Texas; Boston; Detroit; Omaha, Neb.; Salt Lake City and San Francisco. “American Idol” returns in January.

Hunchback King Richard III infected with worms

LONDON (AP)—Not only was Richard III one of England’s most despised monarchs, but it now turns out the hunchback king was probably infected with parasitic worms that grew up to a foot in length.

Researchers who dug up Richard III’s skeleton underneath a parking lot in Leicester last year now report they discovered numerous roundworm eggs in the soil around his pelvis, where his intestines would have been. They compared that to soil samples taken close to Richard’s skull and surrounding his grave. There were no eggs near the skull and only traces of eggs in the soil near the grave.

In a study published online Wednesday in the journal *Lancet*, experts say that suggests the eggs near the skeleton’s pelvis were from an infection during the king’s life, even though it’s unlikely the worms did him any serious damage. In children,

roundworm can lead to stunted growth and a reduced IQ but for a well-fed English king, the parasites were just a minor annoyance.

“Richard probably had more than enough food that he could share with his worms,” said Piers Mitchell, a professor of biological anthropology at Cambridge University, one of the researchers. Mitchell said it was the first time any English monarch had been shown to have been infected with worms.

Still, the deposed king would have suffered some symptoms of worm infection, which typically occurs after someone eats the eggs in contaminated food. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae travel to the lungs and throat, where they get ingested back down into the small intestines.

“As the worms migrate through the body, they can cause a cough and an unpleasant feeling as the worm is swal-



This undated photo provided by the University of Leicester shows the remains of England’s King Richard III which were found in a dig in Leicester, England in September 2012.

lowed,” Mitchell said. He said the king’s doctors wouldn’t have linked those symptoms

to the worms and probably would have prescribed treatments including bloodletting.

Mitchell doubted the worms would have worsened Richard III’s spinal deformity;

William Shakespeare’s play depicts him as a hunchback regent who had his two young nephews murdered so he could claim the English throne.

It’s also possible Richard’s worms made a gruesome appearance when he died on the battlefield in 1485 as the last English king killed in war. In adults infected with roundworm, traumatic events like car crashes can cause the worms to pop out of peoples’ noses and ears.

“The worms get shocked and they move quickly,” said Simon Brooker, a professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who was not part of the study. He said it was possible the many blade injuries suffered by Richard before his death could have prompted the worms in his body to make a hasty exit.

Brooker said there are about 820 million people worldwide who are infected with roundworm, who could be cured with a cheap, one-dose pill.

Atlantic City welcomes Miss America contestants

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—The Miss America pageant is back in the city where it began, six years after spurning the city for Las Vegas.

The pageant held a welcoming ceremony in Atlantic City on Tuesday for the 53 contestants, one from each state plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The contestants filed out of Boardwalk Hall, where the competition will begin next week and culminate days later, and walked across the Boardwalk to a stage.

There, they participated in the traditional signing-in ceremony, in which each of them signed her state on a map of the United States and gave a few words of introduction. Most spoke of how happy they were that the pageant had come home again.

“I really couldn’t be happier that Miss America is back here in Atlantic City!” said Miss Alabama, Chandler Champion.

“It’s my very first time in At-

lantic City,” added Miss Alaska, Michelle Taylor. “Thank you so much for welcoming us back!”

Miss Massachusetts, Amanda Narciso, added, “We appreciate you, we love you and we can’t wait to perform for you!”

Three nights of preliminary competition will begin on Sept. 10. The traditional Show Us Your Shoes Parade will be held Sept. 14, and the nationally televised finale will be held on Sept. 15.

The loudest cheer went up among Boardwalk spectators for the hometown entrant, Miss New Jersey, Cara McCollum, who proclaimed, “It’s been too long since New Jersey has had Miss America!”

Tuesday’s welcoming ceremony also included the unveiling of a sculpture of Miss America holding out a tiara to a successor on the Boardwalk.

The Miss America pageant moved to Las Vegas in 2006 in hopes of attracting a younger audience as TV ratings continued to slide. It was lured back

to Atlantic City in part by the promise of increased subsidies, which are to total more than \$7 million over three years.

The pageant, originating in 1920 as the Fall Frolic, started as little more than a bathing suit revue that was a way to drum up business for the shore resort after Labor Day. It broke viewership records in its heyday and bills itself as one of the world’s largest scholarship programs for women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in scholarship assistance.

With casino industry revenues down for the seventh straight year, the city and state are hoping the pageant can give Atlantic City a fresh boost, showcasing recent improvements. This week, for instance, the contestants will pose for photos while shopping at Atlantic City’s downtown outlet malls and having dinner at a restaurant near a Boardwalk casino.

Sophie Hannah to pen new ‘Agatha Christie’ novel

LONDON (AP)—Here’s one mystery solved: Sophie Hannah is the crime writer given the formidable and most likely lucrative task of reviving Agatha Christie’s famed detective, Hercule Poirot, in a new novel announced Wednesday.

The joint venture involving Hannah, HarperCollins publishers and the late Christie’s descendants means that Hannah will write the first family-authorized sequel to the works that made Christie the bestselling novelist in history, with more than 2 billion copies sold.

When it comes out next year, the still untitled volume—set in the late 1920s—will be the first new Poirot story to appear since “Curtain” was published 39 years ago.

Is the new author feeling the pressure of taking up where the world’s most successful novelist left off?

Hannah, with eight popular psychological thrillers to her name, claims to be only a little

bit fearful.

“The fear stroke adrenaline should help me to produce a better book,” said Hannah, who’s already written a 100-page plot summary complete with the twists and turns associated with Christie’s style. “I’m not scared. I’ve done a very detailed plan that’s been approved. He will certainly be the same Hercule Poirot that’s in all the novels. I’m not going to give him an interest in windsurfing or scuba diving. But different aspects of his personality may come out.”

Hannah said she has been a disciple of Christie since her father gave her a dog-eared copy of “The Body in the Library” when she was 12 or 13.

“I read every word she’d written within a year and I’ve been in love with her work ever since,” Hannah said. “The main thing is her obvious love of the story and her genius as a storyteller. In the writing, you can feel her relish in the story.”

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ELYSIUM (DV) (R) 700 PM

PLANES (DV) (PG) (445 PM) 710 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS (DV) (PG) 725 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D (DV) (PG) (425 PM)

WE'RE THE MILLERS (DV) (R) (420 PM) 720 PM

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (DV) (G) (410 PM)

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Louvre’s Winged Victory flies off for restoration

PARIS (AP)—Winged Victory of Samothrace, the hulking Hellenistic sculpture that dominates the Louvre Museum’s most frequented staircase, is taking flight—away from tourists’ gazes for a restoration project.

Officials at the famed Paris museum said the 2nd-century B.C. sculpture was set to be dismantled, hoisted onto rollers and wheeled into a closed cabin in another Louvre gallery for structural work and a meticulous cleaning to restore the original hues to its marble over the next nine months.

The 5.9-meter (about 18-foot) sculpture shows the headless, armless remains of the winged Greek goddess of victory, Nike, as she lands on a ship’s bow atop a flat base. The work’s flowing garments, energized pose with right leg extended and outstretched wings point to an expert rendering in the high-quality Paros marble, which has yellowed with time, Louvre officials said.

The sculpture towers over the Louvre’s Daru staircase—which leads museum-goers to the Mona Lisa—and is also being refurbished: Visitors will see scaffolding. The 4 million-euro (\$5.27 million) project, which will take Winged Victory out of visitors’ sight until June, follows three years after another Louvre masterpiece, the Venus de Milo, was touched up.

On Tuesday, the Louvre’s weekly closing day, work crews erected scaffolding and hustled on the statue’s base as the project got under way.

“For specialists in Greek sculpture, it’s an essential work ... It immediately draws attention,” Ludovic Laugier, a Louvre restoration official, told reporters. Studies conducted beforehand to plan for the restoration made one thing clear, he said.

“We quickly realized that we were faced with a major difficulty: This staircase gets so much traffic, we can’t restore the Winged Victory here, because we would block all the space,” he said, motioning to the vaulted, cavernous stairwell, which is vital to the movement of many of the Louvre’s 7 million visitors each year.

The statue, by an unknown sculptor, was discovered in 1863 by a French diplomat, Charles Champoiseau, on the Greek island of Samothrace in the Aegean Sea. The last of four restorations ended in 1934, though the so-called great restoration—including use of plaster that Laugier said is accepted by experts today—took place in the early 1880s.



The Winged Victory of Samothrace is a hulking Hellenistic sculpture that dominates the Louvre Museum’s most frequented staircase. WIKIPEDIA

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Pa. university kicks Rivera off panel for ‘selfie’

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Duquesne University says Geraldo Rivera isn’t welcome to appear on a panel at the Pittsburgh school because of a half-naked “selfie” he posted this summer. Duquesne says the cellphone picture the TV personality posted on Twitter in July was inappropriate and not in line with the school’s values as a Catholic university. Rivera had been scheduled to moderate a panel to mark the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. Rivera says he learned of the cancellation last week.

Miley Cyrus on VMAs performance: ‘That’s just me’

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus says in an interview clip that she doesn’t listen to the negative comments regarding her performance on the MTV Video Music Awards. The 20-year-old pop star says she felt she and Robin Thicke were making history with the risqué performance of their hits “We Can’t Stop” and “Blurred Lines.” The comments were Cyrus’ first since the Aug. 25 show. The clip was recorded last week and posted Tuesday morning on MTV’s website. Cyrus compares the performance to that of Madonna and Britney Spears, who once kissed on air. Cyrus says she’s surprised people were still talking about it three days later: “You’re thinking about it more than I thought about it when I did it. I didn’t even think about it because that’s just me.”

Jon Stewart returns to ‘The Daily Show’

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Stewart is back, and the shaggy beard he grew over the summer is gone. “The Daily Show” host returned Tuesday night to the Comedy Central show. He’d been off since June 6, directing and producing a movie in the Middle East. John Oliver subbed to strong reviews. Stewart quickly referenced some of the stories he missed—hitting upon Paula Deen, Anthony Weiner’s alter ego “Carlos Danger” and Miley Cyrus’ sultry MTV dance before the first commercial message. He beckoned the camera close to whisper to his audience: “I’ve missed you so much. You don’t know what it’s like in the real world. Nobody applauds every stupid (expletive) thing that you do.”

Katie Couric engaged to boyfriend Molner

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric is getting married to her finan-

cier boyfriend John Molner. Couric’s spokesman Matthew Hiltzik confirmed the engagement Tuesday morning following a report by People magazine. Molner gave 56-year-old Couric, the former host of “Today,” a diamond ring over the weekend in East Hampton. Molner, 50, is a partner at investment firm Brown Brothers Hariman, who oversees mergers and acquisitions advisory work for the firm’s corporate clients. The couple have dated for nearly two years. Couric’s husband Jay Monahan died in 1998 from colon cancer. She is the mother of two daughters, now 21 and 17. Couric said on her Twitter page: “Yes it’s true! So touched by all the kind Tweets & warm wishes-thank you! A great end to the summer & looking fwd to seeing you all Monday!!”

Lance Armstrong documentary premieres at Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Director Alex Gibley started filming Lance Armstrong before the cyclist acknowledged doping, and looking back now at the 2009 footage he realizes “there was a lot of material there where he was just lying to me straight out.” Gibley was in Venice on Tuesday for the premiere of his film “The Armstrong Lie,” in which he salvaged the 2009 footage meant for a comeback movie and added interviews with Armstrong after the stunning disclosure. Gibley said that Armstrong “to some extent, is always a curator of his own myth and his own story” and once he realized that people no longer idolize him the same way “I think he wanted to spin it.” Still, Gibley maintains that Armstrong “was more honest” in the later interviews.

Matt Damon, Michael Douglas to present at Emmys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matt Damon and Michael Douglas won’t just be competing for an Emmy. They’ll be handing one out, too. Emmys producers announced the pair as this year’s first presenters Tuesday. Damon and Douglas are both nominated for outstanding lead actor in a miniseries or movie for “Behind the Candelabra.” The HBO biopic about pianist Liberace’s affair with Scott Thorson has 15 nominations in all. Both men have previously been up for Emmys four times. They were last nominated as outstanding guest star in a comedy series. Damon was nominated for the award for “30 Rock” in 2011, while Douglas was nominated in 2002 for “Will & Grace.” The 65th Primetime Emmy Awards will air live Sept. 22 from the Nokia Theatre. Neil Patrick Harris is the host.

Single mom rips older workers for staying on the job too long

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am appalled at older workers who hang onto their jobs so they can live lavish lifestyles, while young workers trying to support families are left with lack of advancement or even laid off because they don’t have tenure.

I am a single mom, and when my sons are out of college I plan to take a less stressful job (and thus less pay), so a younger person can have my job to support a family. I am so tired of the ME ME ME attitude of our society now. In the past, there was more of a sense of social responsibility. Now it’s every man for himself and hang everyone else!

DISGUSTED IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

Dear Abby

DEAR DISGUSTED: While your altruism is laudable, please try to be less judgmental. Many older people work longer these days not to live lavish lifestyles, but to survive.

Unless you have a crystal ball that enables you to see what seniors have in the bank, it’s presumptuous to say someone should retire. Many seniors are unprepared financially to do so through no fault of their own. And while you may think now that you’ll take a reduction in pay when your sons are out of college, it remains to be seen if that will be feasible for you when the time comes.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My cousin died a short time ago at a very young age and in an unnatural and devastating way. As soon as people outside the family started finding out, they began asking what happened. Many of these questions were posted on my relatives’ Facebook pages.

Is it just me or isn’t that a very insensitive thing to do? It’s not just that they are asking questions of a grieving family who lost their son only hours before, but that they did it through Facebook.

MOURNING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MOURNING: Please accept my sympathy for your family’s tragic loss. We live in an age in which respect for privacy has nearly disappeared, and folks routinely bare intimate and sensitive details about their lives on the Internet. Of course questions like the ones your relatives are being asked are tasteless—whether in person or via electronic media. If a person wishes to convey this kind of information, it is usually done VOLUNTARILY, and certainly not when feelings are raw.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Too often we hear horrifying stories in the news about prescription drug addiction and overdoses. I’d like to offer hope to addicts who are still using.

There IS life after drugs. For 10 years I was addicted to pain pills. My poor mother tried everything. She offered me trips or help in buying a new car if I would just go to rehab. I refused because I wasn’t ready. I finally hit rock bottom and went into rehab when I realized my daughter was pulling away from me. I had been spending our rent money on pills I’d buy on the streets.

After I was sober for a few days, I realized I liked the feeling. After the sixth day, I was “me” again, and I loved it. I have been sober for two years and am now entering school to become a patient tech. It’s exciting because I will be helping others. I believe this is what I was meant to do in life.

Everyone keeps saying I should tell my story, but to be honest, my story isn’t finished yet. Thank you for letting me share.

ENJOYING SOBRIETY IN FLORIDA

DEAR ENJOYING SOBRIETY: You’re welcome. You’re right that your story isn’t over yet, but from where I’m sitting it looks like the next chapter will be a happy and constructive one. I wish you success in your journey.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



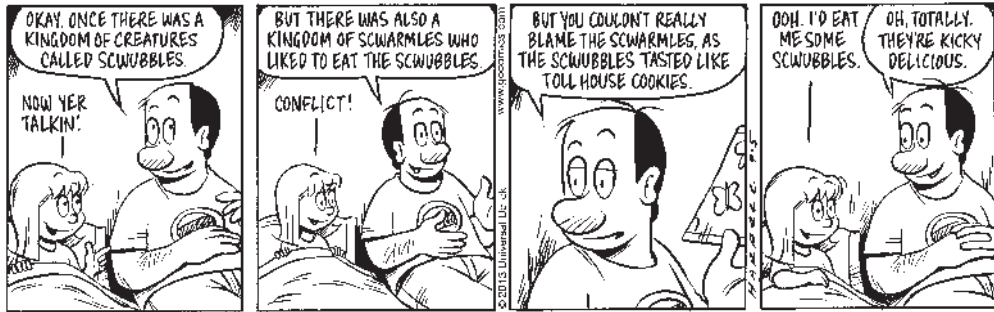
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



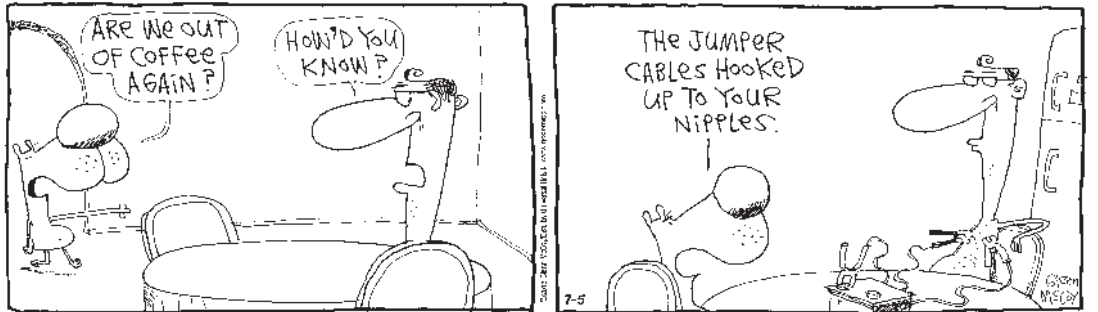
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

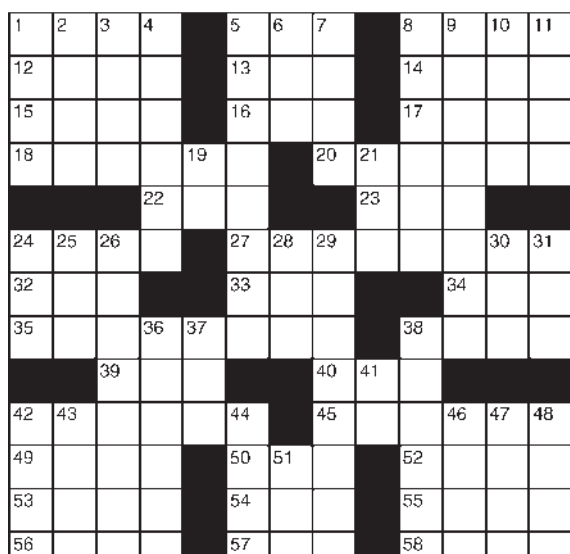
By Eugene Sheffer

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38 Reb's foe
41 Indefinite
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42 Picnic
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43 TV chef
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47 Plankton
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48 Russell or
Redbone
51 Founda-
tion

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-5



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rose McGowan, 40; Dweezil Zappa, 44; Michael Keaton, 62; Raquel Welch, 73.

Happy Birthday: Let your passion drive you. Don't hold back when you should be lining up all the people and things you need in place in order to reach your destination. Goals can be set and victory can be expected. Keep impulses in order and overspending in check, and everything else will fall into place as you climb the ladder to success. Your numbers are 2, 13, 23, 29, 31, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put pressure on anyone standing between you and your professional goals. Send out your resume, discuss job prospects with your current boss or consider effective ways to earn more cash. A change brought on by your own actions will be successful. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your expertise to teach others how you want things done. Delegating work will free up time, allowing you to focus on what's most important to you. Your confidence will ensure that your peers look up to you. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Easy come, easy go. Be cautious handling cash and possessions. Not everyone you deal with will be honest, and being left shortchanged will leave you in an awkward position. Take care of yourself emotionally and physically. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your thoughts and plans, and the response you get will help you make a decision regarding your home, family and what you want to

devote your time to. A joint venture will make a difference to your personal finances. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your changing attitude and desire for something new will lead to mixed emotions when dealing with friends and family. Consistency will be required if you want to appease someone who depends on you. Avoid secret dealings that can lead to a costly mistake. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Serious talks can spare an emotional mishap within a relationship. Ask questions and work together to find common ground. Plan to do things that will please both you and those you deal with. Compromise and keep the peace. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let the changes going on around you influence the way you react. Keep a low profile and you'll avoid being dragged into a no-win situation. Get your work done, your responsibilities taken care of and be on your way. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Size up your situation at work and at home, and explore the possibility of making moves that will increase your income and your ability to use your skills and the things you enjoy doing most. Don't get discouraged; get moving. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make personal life changes, but you must keep your costs down and your wish list short and concise. Friends and family will judge your indiscretions harshly. Don't overspend on your lover—you cannot buy love. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Physical health will suffer if you overindulge or take on too much. Don't miss out on an opportunity because you are not up to taking on the extra work involved. Farm out menial jobs and focus on what's important to you. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more effort into the relationships you share with others. Whether it's personal or professional, the way you handle others will be a major factor in where you end up living and working. An unexpected change will take you by surprise. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Relationships will play an important part in the decisions you make. Listen to what's being said and counteroffer with what you want. Your ability to express your desires passionately will convince others to give you what you want. ★★

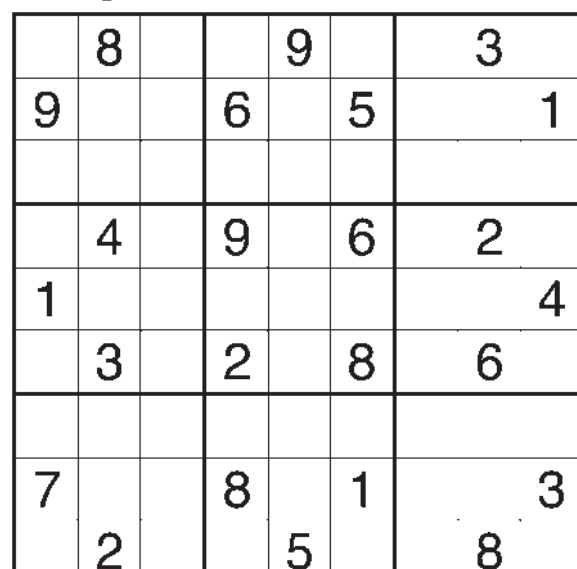
Birthday Baby: You are intense, detailed and practical. You are intelligent and goal-oriented.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



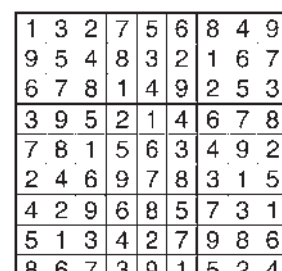
Difficulty Level ★★★

9/05

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

COCKATOOS

Solution: 5 letters



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Active, Affectionate, Alba, Banksian, Baudins, Billed, Bird, Black, Blue, Carnaby, Citron, Comical, Corella, Crested, Dances, Eyed, Fruit, Goffin, Grey, Insects, Large, Loud, Male, New Zealand, Orange, Parrot, Pets, Philippines, Pink, Psittacidae, Roseate, Seeds, Slender, Species, Sulphur, Talk, Timor, Trap, Triton, Tubers, Umbrella, White, Wild, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Seventh

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 34, 35, 36 or 37, call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universalclicke.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

Serena wins US Open quarterfinal, 6-0, 6-0



NEW YORK (AP)—

From an ace on the first point to a stinging return on the last, Serena Williams was close to perfect in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

The score said it all Tuesday night: 6-0, 6-0.

Yes, Williams is looking better and better with each match at the year's last Grand Slam tournament. With two more wins—no matter the exact scores—she'll earn a fifth title at Flushing Meadows and 17th major championship overall.

The No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams shut out 18th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain, the first "double bagel" in a quarterfinal at Flushing Meadows since 1989, when 18-time major title winner Martina Navratilova did it to Manuella Maleeva.

"When you play against Serena," Suarez Navarro said, "you know these things can happen."

Williams won 53 of 71 points and dominated pretty much every statistical category. The first set took all of 19 minutes. The second was slower, lasting 33 minutes, but no less lopsided.

Williams was asked whether she'd describe her performance as close to flawless.

"Of course not," the defending champion said with a laugh. "I played good, though. I played really good. I was just more focused than anything. You know, I like to believe there is room for improvement."

That might be bad news for her opponent in Friday's semifinals, 2011 French Open champion Li Na of China.

Asked in an on-court interview if her game is peaking, Williams replied: "No. Not yet. I hope not. I'm just trying to do the best that I can."

Through five matches, Williams has dropped a total of 13 games so far. For comparison's sake, know this: Suarez Navarro lost more games than that in her previous match alone, 15, while eliminating No. 8 Angelique Kerber.



Carla Suarez Navarro, of Spain, kisses Serena Williams, of the United States, after Williams' 6-0, 6-0 win in a U.S. Open tennis tournament quarterfinal, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013, in New York.

That victory, and her seeding, should have demonstrated that Suarez Navarro is quite capable of playing well, too.

But not on this evening. Not against Williams, who is 65-4 with eight titles in 2013.

Going back to the start of Wimbledon last year, the 31-year-old American is 96-5 with 13 trophies, including from three of the past five Grand Slam tournaments plus the London Olympics.

"The conditions were so tough, so it definitely was not her best tennis today," Williams said about Suarez Navarro, who was playing in her third career major quarterfinal Tuesday, which happened to

be her 25th birthday.

Tough conditions, huh? That swirling wind in Arthur Ashe Stadium sure did not appear to bother Williams one bit. She wound up with a 20-3 edge in winners. She made fewer unforced errors, 12-9. She won 23 of 26 points on first serves.

"I've been playing here for, like, 50 years," Williams said with a laugh. "I've kind of gotten used to the conditions. Even though it's difficult to play each year, I'm getting a little bit better with it."

When Williams did face a break point for the first time, 42 minutes and 11 games into the match, she came up with a big serve and raced forward for a

simple putaway that she punctuated with a yell.

Moments later came a second break chance, but even with Williams stumbling to the court, Suarez Navarro dumped the ball into the net.

It was that kind of night. "She's the best player in the sport," Suarez Navarro said. "When you look at the draw, you don't want to see Serena there."

Before the match, picturing in her mind what it might be like to step out in the largest arena in Grand Slam tennis, under the lights at night, against Williams, Suarez Navarro came up with a couple of possible scenarios.

"I imagined a movie in which

I won. I also imagined a movie in which I played well, but she ended up winning," she said. "I was dreaming so many things."

After their quick-as-can-be match, defending men's champion Andy Murray went into Ashe and encountered some problems along the way to a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory over 65th-ranked Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan in the fourth round.

Ahead 5-3 in the opening tiebreaker, Murray dropped four points in a row. Serving for the second set at 5-1, Murray hit a volley-lob that Istomin tracked down and, back to the net, sent back with a between-the-legs shot. What should have been an easy tap-in winner became a flubbed volley, and Murray put his hand to his face. But he wound up taking that game, and was on his way to improving to 30-2 over his last five Grand Slam tournaments.

Next for Murray is a quarterfinal against No. 9 Stanislas Wawrinka. A day after his Swiss Davis Cup teammate and friend, Roger Federer, lost, Wawrinka reached the round of eight at the U.S. Open for the second time by beating No. 5 Tomas Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon runner-up, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (6), 6-2 in Louis Armstrong Stadium at night.

In the afternoon, top-seeded Novak Djokovic won 45 of 53 service points while eliminating 43rd-ranked Marcel Granollers 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 in a grand total of only 79 minutes.

Djokovic, who won the 2011 U.S. Open and lost in last year's final to Murray, reached his 18th consecutive major quarterfinal.

Now comes a match against 21st-seeded Mikhail Youzhny, who was two points from defeat but came back to edge two-time major champion Lleyton Hewitt 6-3, 3-6, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-5.

All eight men's quarterfinalists are from Europe: Serbia's Djokovic, Britain's Murray, Switzerland's Wawrinka, Russia's Youzhny on one half of the draw, and Spain's Rafael Nadal, David Ferrer and Tommy Robredo, along with France's Richard Gasquet on the other half.

Earlier Tuesday, the fifth-

seeded Li needed nearly 2 1/2 hours to get past 24th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova of Russia 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-2.

On three occasions, Li went up a break in the second set, nearing eventual victory each time, but could not finish things. She then was up 3-0 in the tiebreaker before faltering. Still, she recovered well and closed the match by taking the last four games, then joked that she would grab a bag of chips and enjoy watching Williams against Suarez Navarro.

Regardless of who she'd face next, Li made the point that what would be important is to focus on herself.

"I mean, if you only think about what (your) opponent (is) doing, of course you already lose the match before you come to the court," Li said. "For tennis you have to figure out what you have to do on the court, what you should do."

Li has only won one of nine career matches against Williams heading into Friday.

"Tough, tough opponent," Li said. "But is (a) good challenge to play against her."

The quarterfinals on the other half of the draw are Wednesday: second-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus against 48th-ranked Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, and 10th-seeded Roberta Vinci against 83rd-ranked Flavia Pennetta in a matchup between two Italians in their 30s.

While the other women in that section all advanced Monday, Azarenka's fourth-round match against 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic was postponed until Tuesday at 11 a.m. because of rain. Azarenka got off to a slow start, but eventually got going and beat the 13th-seeded Ivanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a topsy-turvy match with a combined 16 service breaks and 17 double-faults.

"I think," two-time Australian Open champion Azarenka said, "we're just great returners."

Lamented Ivanovic: "I felt like I could break her, but it was very frustrating that I was losing my serve constantly."

Suns, Michael Beasley agree to terminate contract



PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns and Michael Beasley have reached an agreement to terminate the contract of the troubled forward.

The move on Tuesday will cost the franchise \$7 million, a \$2 million savings from what Beasley would have been due had he simply been waived. It also represents a significant reduction in what the hit on the team's salary cap would have been.

Beasley was arrested a month ago in suburban Scottsdale on charges of felony marijuana possession and possession of drug

paraphernalia. It was the latest in a series of incidents involving the drug that have plagued his NBA career after he was selected as the No. 2 overall draft pick out of Kansas State in 2008.

"The Suns were devoted to Michael Beasley's success in Phoenix," Suns President for Basketball Operations Lon Babby said in a statement released by the team. "However, it is essential that we demand the highest standards of personal and professional conduct as we develop a championship culture."

"Today's action reflects our commitment to those standards."

The Suns took a chance on

Beasley despite his history of off-the-court problems.

In June 2011, Beasley was ticketed for marijuana possession and speeding in a Minneapolis suburb. He has acknowledged that while he was with the Miami Heat, he twice violated the NBA's drug policy and entered a treatment facility in 2009.

But at the news conference announcing his signing of a three-year, \$18 million contract with Phoenix, Beasley vowed that his marijuana days were over.

"I realize 10 minutes of feeling good is not really worth

putting my life and my career and my legacy in jeopardy," he said then, "so I'm confident to say that that part of my career, that part of my life, is over and won't be coming back."

But early on Aug. 6, his Mercedes was pulled over for a traffic stop and a Scottsdale officer said he smelled marijuana. Police said they found three marijuana cigarettes in the car Beasley was driving.

Lance Blanks was Suns general manager when Beasley was signed and enthusiastically supported the acquisition. Blanks was fired at the end of last season and replaced by Ryan Mc-

Donough, who hired new coach Jeff Hornacek and has overseen a wholesale change in the roster after the Suns compiled the worst record in the Western Conference and second-worst in franchise history.

"We have high standards for all of our players," McDonough said. "We expect them to represent the team and the community in a positive manner both on and off the court."

On the court, Beasley's one season with the Suns was a disappointing one. He averaged career lows of 10.1 points and 3.8 rebounds in 75 games while shooting a career-worst 40.5

percent from the field.

Beasley's agent, Jeff Schwartz, did not respond to email or phone requests for comment.

Beasley, 24, has played five seasons in the NBA, two with Miami, two with Minnesota and one with Phoenix. He is averaging 14.1 points per game for his career.

The Suns' recent trade of Caron Butler to Milwaukee created \$6 million in salary cap room to soften the financial blow to the Suns.

"The timing and nature of this, and all our transactions," Babby said, "are based on the judgment of our basketball leadership as to how best to achieve our singular goal of rebuilding an elite team."

Lester outduels Scherzer, Red Sox top Tigers, 2-1



B O S T O N
(AP)—Jon Lester outdueled Max Scherzer and

Boston beat Detroit 2-1 on Tuesday night, ending the Tigers right-hander's chance to become just the second pitcher to open a season with a 20-1 record.

Lester (13-8) lowered his ERA to 1.71 in his past six starts. He allowed one earned run and eight hits with a season-high nine strikeouts and no walks.

Scherzer (19-2), who won his first 13 decisions, lost for the first time since July 13 when Texas beat him 7-1.

Roger Clemens is the only pitcher to start 20-1. He ended up 20-3 with the Yankees in 2001.

Boston scored on Will Middlebrooks' two-run single in the fifth. Detroit's Jose Iglesias doubled in a run in the second in the matchup of division leaders.

Koji Uehara pitched the ninth for his 17th save in 20 opportunities and extended his scoreless streak to 25 innings.

Miguel Cabrera, who missed three games with abdominal and groin problems, returned for Detroit and went 0 for 4.

Yankees 6, White Sox 4

In New York, Eduardo Nunez's two-run double capped a five-run eighth inning for New York.

Pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson tied the score with an RBI single off reliever Donnie Veal and New York went on to win for the 12th time in 14 home games.

Alexei Ramirez hit a two-run triple and Alejandro De Aza homered for the last-place White Sox who dropped their fifth straight.

Alfonso Soriano's two-run single off Nate Jones (4-5) cut the deficit to 4-3.

Indians 4, Orioles 3

In Cleveland, Ubaldo Jimenez pitched six shutout innings while Yan Gomes and Asdrubal Cabrera drove in two runs apiece, and Cleveland survived a shaky ninth inning.

Jimenez (10-9) has allowed three earned runs or less in eight consecutive starts. The right-hander allowed four hits.

Gomes' two-run double was the key hit in Cleveland's sixth. Cabrera had sacrifices flies in the fourth and sixth.

Orioles starter Chris Tillman (15-5) allowed four runs in 5 1-3 innings. The right-hander has one win in his last six starts.

The Orioles got back in the game in the ninth against Indians closer Chris Perez, who pitched in a non-save situation. Nate McLouth hit a three-run homer but Perez struck out Brian Roberts and Manny Machado before retiring Chris Davis, who leads the majors with 47 homers, on a ground ball.

Royals 4, Mariners 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Perez drove in Mike Moustakas with two outs in the eighth inning for Kansas City, which survived after blowing a three-run lead.

Billy Butler grounded into a double play against reliever Yoervis Medina (4-4) when Moustakas legged out a double to center in the eighth. Perez followed with a single to left, and Moustakas had just enough time for a headfirst slide ahead of Endy Chavez's throw to home.

Luke Hochevar (4-2) got two outs in the eighth to leave runners stranded



Boston Red Sox closer Koji Uehara, of Japan, celebrates after defeating the Detroit Tigers 2-1 in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013.

on second and third, and Greg Holland pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st straight save and 38th on the year.

Twins 9, Astros 6, 12 innings

In Houston, Clete Thomas scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the 12th inning and Darin Mastroianni added a two-run double for Minnesota.

Thomas reached on a fielder's choice and went to third on Jasmil Pinto's double. Kevin Chapman (0-1) then uncorked a wild pitch with pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit at the plate.

Mastroianni provided a couple of insurance runs when he doubled with two outs as Minnesota recovered after Glen Perkins blew a save opportunity in the ninth.

Brian Dozier and Trevor Plouffe homered for Minnesota, which has won three straight. Plouffe had four hits and Mastroianni went 3 for 6 with three RBIs.

Brandon Barnes had three hits and five RBIs for the Astros, including a tying three-run homer off Perkins with two outs in the ninth.

Rays 7, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Matt Moore pitched into the sixth inning in his return from the disabled list, and Tampa Bay got home runs from Desmond Jennings and Yunel Escobar.

Moore (15-3) won his seventh straight decision, yielding an unearned run and four hits in 5 1-3 innings as the Rays snapped a five-game losing streak. The All-Star left-hander, who missed the entire month of August because of elbow soreness, won six straight starts before getting a no-decision on July 28 at Yankee Stadium.

Roberto Hernandez struck out his first five batters after relieving Moore, and seven altogether in 3 2-3 perfect innings to record his first save in eight major league seasons. It was only his second relief outing since his rookie season with Cleveland in 2006.

Rangers 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Martin Perez allowed one run over seven innings to win his sixth straight start and Mitch Moreland

homered to move Texas back into sole possession of first place in the AL West.

After falling into a tie for first with the A's when they lost the series opener, the Rangers bounced back behind another strong performance from Perez (9-3) and are assured of leaving Oakland for the final time in the regular season with at least a share of the division lead.

Bartolo Colon (14-6) allowed three unearned runs in the fifth inning following his own error. Colon is winless in five starts since July 26 with a DL stint in the middle of that stretch.

Pirates 4, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Travis Snider homered in the ninth inning to lift Pittsburgh to a 4-3 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday night that clinched the Pirates' first non-losing record in 21 seasons.

Snider drove a 2-2 pitch from Jim Henderson (3-5) over the wall in center for his second pinch-hit homer of the season. He also accomplished the feat against the Chicago Cubs on May 21.

It was victory No. 81 for Pittsburgh, ensuring it will not finish with a losing record for the first time since it went 96-66 in 1992. More importantly, it boosted the Pirates' lead in the NL Central to two games over St. Louis.

Vin Mazzaro (7-2) pitched two innings for the win and Mark Melancon got three outs for his 11th save, striking out Khris Davis with a runner on second to make it four straight wins for Pittsburgh at Miller Park for the first time since 2002. The Pirates lost 44 of 51 games in Milwaukee from 2007-2012.

Reds 1, Cardinals 0

In Cincinnati, Speedy Billy Hamilton got his first major league steal and came around on Todd Frazier's double in the seventh inning, sending Cincinnati to the victory.

Hamilton made his big league debut as a pinch runner for Ryan Ludwick, who led off the seventh with a single against Seth Maness (5-2).

After Maness threw to first three times, Hamilton took off and beat catcher Yadier Molina's off-target throw. The touted prospect scored eas-

ily on Frazier's hit and got congratulatory slaps in the dugout.

Homer Bailey (10-10) allowed only two hits in seven innings, retiring his last 14 batters. Aroldis Chapman got three outs for his 34th save in 39 chances, completing the two-hitter.

The Cardinals were shut out for the third time in their last six games.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 4

In Denver, Ricky Nolasco pitched six strong innings, Carl Crawford had three hits and the Dodgers earned their sixth consecutive win.

Crawford singled in a pair of runs in the second to spark the offense in the absence of injured catalyst Yasiel Puig. The Cuban slugger was rested a day after he aggravated a right knee strain.

Nolasco (12-9) allowed two runs and five hits in improving to 7-1 with a 2.27 ERA in 11 starts since coming to Los Angeles on July 6 in a trade with Miami.

Nick Punto added four singles for the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Jhoulys Chacin (13-8) allowed four runs in seven innings in losing to the Dodgers for the first time in four starts this season.

Nationals 9, Phillies 6

In Philadelphia, Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer and Corey Brown also went deep to back Gio Gonzalez, leading Washington to the victory.

Still clinging to postseason hopes, the Nationals overcame a sloppy all-around effort that included three errors, four unearned runs and four wild pitches. They remained 7½ games behind Cincinnati for the second wild-card spot.

Gonzalez (9-6) gave up five runs—one earned—and five hits, striking out six in 5 2-3 innings. The lefty has two straight wins after going seven starts without one.

Phillies rookie Ethan Martin (2-4) allowed five runs and four hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Cody Asche was 3 for 4 with a homer and three RBIs for Philadelphia.

Braves 3, Mets 1

In Atlanta, Kris Medlen pitched seven

strong innings to help Atlanta get another win at home.

Andrelton Simmons and Evan Gattis homered for the Braves, who have won 20 of 24 at Turner Field to improve the major leagues' best home record to 51-19.

Gattis, who was recalled earlier in the day after a three-game stint at Triple-A Gwinnett, tied it at 1 with his 16th homer in the seventh. After Mets starter Carlos Torres (3-3) walked Dan Uggla on nine pitches, Simmons hit his 13th homer to make it 3-1.

Medlen (12-12) allowed seven hits and one run while striking out nine. Closer Craig Kimbrel converted his 34th straight save opportunity and improved to 44 for 47 this season.

New York has dropped three straight and nine of 13.

Padres 3, Giants 2

In San Diego, Chris Denorfia hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning to lift the Padres to the victory.

Nick Hundley drew a leadoff walk in the seventh from rookie reliever Jake Dunning, who was called up earlier in the day from Triple-A Fresno. Ronnie Cedeno followed with a single to send Hundley to third and bring on Javier Lopez.

Denorfia lined a 1-2 pitch to left for the single that broke a 2-all tie.

Dunning (0-2), who made his major league debut in June, took the loss. Tim Stauffer (3-1) got the win with 1 2-3 innings of shutout ball.

Huston Street pitched the ninth for his 26th save in 27 chances.

Marlins 6, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Donovan Solano had three hits, including a two-run double, and the Miami bullpen combined for 4 2-3 hitless innings.

Christian Yelich drove in three runs with a double and single for the Marlins, who have won three straight after losing six in a row.

Brian Bogusevic hit a solo homer for the Cubs, who dropped to 27-44 at Wrigley Field. Edwin Jackson (7-15) gave up three runs and seven hits in five innings.

Miami starter Tom Koehler pitched 4 1-3 innings, allowing two runs and four hits. He was pulled with bases loaded in the fifth, but was picked up by the Miami bullpen, which retired the next 11 batters. Ryan Webb (2-5) pitched two perfect innings for the win.

Blue Jays 10, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Edwin Encarnacion, Rajai Davis, Adam Lind and Moises Sierra homered in Toronto's fifth win in six games.

The Blue Jays jumped out to a 5-0 lead against Wade Miley (9-10). Todd Redmond (3-2) allowed three runs and four hits in five innings for his second win in a row.

The Diamondbacks have lost three straight and five of six, all at home. Adam Eaton, Didi Gregorius and Miguel Montero went deep for Arizona.

Encarnacion also doubled, singled and walked twice. Going back to May 2010, he has homered in a record five straight games at Chase Field.

Miley didn't make it out of the second inning, allowing five runs and eight hits in 1 2-3 innings. Eaton had two throwing errors in left field, one of which led to an unearned run.

2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Hapi Gabriel hits a low shot during a doubles game in the 2013 Shirley's Badminton Classic held last month at the TSL Sports Complex.



Lani Bartolome chases the shuttlecock.



Ferdie Arago makes a return from the backcourt.



Hannah Choi returns to Lani Bartolome.



Michelle Santos has her eyes on the shuttlecock.



Jen Cardinio leans in for a return.



Ezekiel Macario hits the shuttlecock near the net.



Jordan Pangilinan returns to Ezekiel Macario during their Class B title game.



Deether Edralin bends for a return.



Oh Im Bog in action against Deether Edralin in the men's Class B consolation game.



Serena wins
US Open
quarterfinal
6-0, 6-0

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Lester outduels
Scherzer,
Red Sox top
Tigers, 2-1

PAGE 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

12 NMBA players to compete in Guam



Caranto



Galvez



Ito



Janelle Pangilinan



Jordan Pangilinan



Kim



Macario



Obata



Omori



Santos



Savellano



Villaflor

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Youth players will lead Northern Marianas Badminton Association's bid in the 2nd GNBF Annual Summer Friendship Badminton Tournament that will be held this weekend in Dededo, Guam.

NMBA is fielding 12 players in the three-day tournament and five of them are from the Community Badminton Club, which is composed of U18 players. The list includes Jexler Caranto,



Janelle and Jordan Pangilinan, Ezekiel Macario, and Jen Savellano. Completing the NMBA team are Andreau Galvez, Toshiko Obata, Loida Ito, Shirley Kim. See NMBA on Page 26

Padres dominate batting race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Padres sluggers are in the Top 3 of the batting race in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League.

Khobby Kaipat is still on top with his .579 batting average, as he went 11-for-19 after last Sept. 2 games at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. Closing in at second place is Kaipat's teammate Patrick Tenorio, who is 9-for-18 for a .500 batting average. Kaipat and Tenorio are the only two sluggers to have a batting average of at least .500, as their teammate Kier Agda earned a .429 average off his 9-for-21 performance at the plate.

The Giants' Franco Nakamura is at fourth, going 7-for-7 for an average of .400, followed by the Padres' Leroy Regis (6-for-15/.400), the Dodgers' Craig Aguon (6-for-15/.400), the Braves' A.J. Lizama (6 for-17/.353), the Giants' Kenji Yamagata (.353), the Padres' Lancaster Sechamidal. See PADRES on Page 26



A Padres batter gets away from the plate after an outside pitch from the Yankees during an earlier game in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pangelinan, Cal earn first win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Veterans Paul Pangelinan and Ron Cal recorded their first win of the season in the Saipan Bowling Association Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes after ruling the August roll-offs held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Pangelinan survived a tough challenge from three-time winner Robert Talavera (March, April, and July) to barge into the win column past the half-way mark of the season. Pangelinan scored 200 pinfalls in the first two games last Sunday against the 220 and 225 of Talavera and the latter kept up with the leader after three games with his 215 in Game 3 against the former's 199. See PANGELINAN on Page 26



Paul Pangelinan, left, and Ron Cal pose for a photo after winning the SBA Budweiser August roll-offs last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO